

# BLW wave 27 experts

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## Start of Block: Section 1: Introduction & Consent



Q1.1 Thank you for participating in the Bright Line Watch survey of political scientists. The purpose of this survey is to measure expert opinions about the state of American democracy. Your responses will be anonymous. Your participation in this study is voluntary, and you are free to skip any questions or withdraw from the study at any time. No information that identifies you will be collected or retained by the researchers, and all of the information we collect will be stored securely. However, any online interaction carries some risk of being accessed. Please contact Brendan Nyhan by email at [nyhan@dartmouth.edu](mailto:nyhan@dartmouth.edu) with any questions or concerns. If you have any questions or comments about this survey, or if you would like to be removed from the mailing list for future surveys, please email [survey@brightlinewatch.org](mailto:survey@brightlinewatch.org).

- I agree to continue (1)
- I do not agree to continue (2)

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## End of Block: Section 1: Introduction & Consent

## Start of Block: Section 2a: Overall Performance

Q479 Timing  
First Click (1)  
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PERF\_now How well do the following statements describe the United States as of today?

	The U.S. does not meet this standard (1)	The U.S. partly meets this standard (2)	The U.S. mostly meets this standard (3)	The U.S. fully meets this standard (4)	Not sure (5)
Government officials are legally sanctioned for misconduct (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government officials do not use public office for private gain (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government agencies are not used to monitor, attack, or punish political opponents (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
All adult citizens enjoy the same legal and political rights (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government does not interfere with journalists or news organizations (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government effectively prevents private actors from engaging in politically-motivated violence or intimidation (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Government protects individuals' right to engage in unpopular speech or expression (7)

Political competition occurs without criticism of opponents' loyalty or patriotism (8)

Elections are free from foreign influence (9)

Parties and candidates are not barred due to their political beliefs and ideologies (10)

All adult citizens have equal opportunity to vote (11)

All votes have equal impact on election outcomes (12)

Elections are conducted, ballots counted, and winners determined without pervasive fraud or manipulation (13)

Executive authority cannot be expanded beyond constitutional limits (14)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The legislature is able to effectively limit executive power (15)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The judiciary is able to effectively limit executive power (16)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The elected branches respect judicial independence (17)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Voter participation in elections is generally high (18)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information about the sources of campaign funding is available to the public (19)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public policy is not determined by large campaign contributions (20)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Citizens can make their opinions heard in open	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

debate about policies that are under consideration (21)

The geographic boundaries of electoral districts do not systematically advantage any particular political party (22)

Even when there are disagreements about ideology or policy, political leaders generally share a common understanding of relevant facts (23)

Elected officials seek compromise with political opponents (24)

Citizens have access to information about candidates that is relevant to how they would govern (25)

Government protects individuals' right to

engage in peaceful protest (26)

Law enforcement investigations of public officials or their associates are free from political influence or interference (27)

Government statistics and data are produced by experts who are not influenced by political considerations (28)

The law is enforced equally for all persons (29)

Politicians who lose free and fair elections publicly concede defeat (30)

Universities, businesses, and professional organizations operate independently of government pressure (31)

Military leadership remains politically neutral and does not favor or support any political party or candidate (32)

Officeholders do not use the military to advance political agendas or intimidate political opponents (33)

Law enforcement remains politically neutral and does not favor or support any political party or candidate (34)

Officeholders do not use law enforcement to advance political agendas or intimidate political opponents (35)

End of Block: Section 2a: Overall Performance

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Start of Block: Section 2b: 2027 Performance

Q1023 The questions on the next page will ask you to **look to the future** and evaluate how well you expect the statements provided will describe the United States in **2027**.

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Page Break

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Q1004 Timing  
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PERF\_2027 **Now looking to the future**, how well do you expect the following statements to describe the United States in **2027**?

	The U.S. will not meet this standard (1)	The U.S. will partly meet this standard (2)	The U.S. will mostly meet this standard (3)	The U.S. will fully meet this standard (4)	Not sure (5)
Government officials are legally sanctioned for misconduct (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government officials do not use public office for private gain (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government agencies are not used to monitor, attack, or punish political opponents (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
All adult citizens enjoy the same legal and political rights (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government does not interfere with journalists or news organizations (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government effectively prevents private actors from engaging in politically-motivated violence or intimidation (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Government protects individuals' right to engage in unpopular speech or expression (7)

Political competition occurs without criticism of opponents' loyalty or patriotism (8)

Elections are free from foreign influence (9)

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All adult citizens have equal opportunity to vote (11)

All votes have equal impact on election outcomes (12)

Elections are conducted, ballots counted, and winners determined without pervasive fraud or manipulation (13)

Executive authority cannot be expanded beyond constitutional limits (14)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The legislature is able to effectively limit executive power (15)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The judiciary is able to effectively limit executive power (16)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The elected branches respect judicial independence (17)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Voter participation in elections is generally high (18)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information about the sources of campaign funding is available to the public (19)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public policy is not determined by large campaign contributions (20)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Citizens can make their opinions heard in open	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

debate about policies that are under consideration (21)

The geographic boundaries of electoral districts do not systematically advantage any particular political party (22)

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Citizens have access to information about candidates that is relevant to how they would govern (25)

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Government statistics and data are produced by experts who are not influenced by political considerations (28)

The law is enforced equally for all persons (29)

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Officeholders do not use the military to advance political agendas or intimidate political opponents (33)

Law enforcement remains politically neutral and does not favor or support any political party or candidate (34)

Officeholders do not use law enforcement to advance political agendas or intimidate political opponents (35)

End of Block: Section 2b: 2027 Performance

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Start of Block: Section 3a: Overall Evaluation

ratingusa\_timer Timing

First Click (1)

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Click Count (4)



rusa\_now

On a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 is least democratic and 100 is most democratic, how would you rate the political system of the United States as of today?

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

United States today ()	 A horizontal slider bar with a blue vertical handle. The handle is positioned at approximately 55 on the scale.
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Page Break

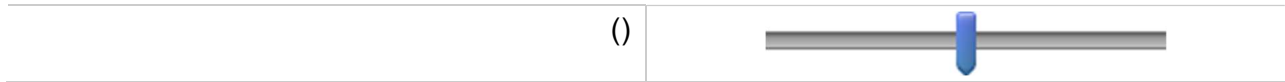
End of Block: Section 3a: Overall Evaluation

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Start of Block: Section 3b: 2027/2032 Ratings

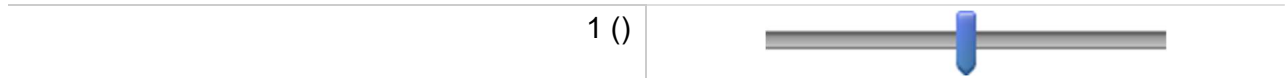
rusa\_2027 What rating would you expect to give the political system of the United States in **2027**? You rated the US now as  $\{\text{rusa\_now/ChoiceNumericEntryValue/1}\}$ .

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100



rusa\_2032 What rating would you expect to give the political system of the United States in **2032**? You rated the US now as  $\{\text{rusa\_now/ChoiceNumericEntryValue/1}\}$ .

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100



End of Block: Section 3b: 2027/2032 Ratings

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Start of Block: rating hypothetical countries - intro

JS

hypo\_country\_intro  $\{\text{e://Field/intro_1}\}$

End of Block: rating hypothetical countries - intro

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Start of Block: rating hypothetical countries - country a

- Q1211 Timing
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- Last Click (2)
- Page Submit (3)
- Click Count (4)

Q906  $\{\text{e://Field/intro_2}\}$

Q989 `#{e://Field/first_country}`

JS

country\_a - Elections are regular and competitive; opposition campaigns have equal access to venues and media; incumbent use of state resources for campaigns is prohibited and enforced. - Judges are appointed through pluralistic, merit-based procedures; the judiciary is independent; courts regularly review and annul executive acts. - Prosecutors are legally independent; charging decisions are insulated from political direction; high-profile cases against opposition figures are not announced near elections. - Media regulation protects editorial independence; national broadcasters follow independence codes; accreditation and access rules are viewpoint-neutral. - Official statistics and the national audit institution are legally independent; release calendars and methods are set without political input and reports are published without pre-clearance. - Senior civil service appointments are made by open, merit-based competition; political appointments are limited by law; vacancies are publicly advertised.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

1 ( )



End of Block: rating hypothetical countries - country a

Start of Block: rating hypothetical countries - country b

Q1426 Timing  
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Click Count (4)

Q1427 `#{e://Field/intro_2}`

Q1430 `#{e://Field/second_country}`

JS

Q1431 - Elections are regular but not fully competitive; opposition campaigns face disadvantages in access to venues and media; incumbent use of state resources for campaigns is prohibited but weakly enforced. - Judges are appointed through mixed procedures with executive influence; the judiciary is partly independent; courts infrequently review or annul executive acts. - Prosecutors are subordinate to the executive; charging decisions are exposed to political influence; high-profile cases against opposition figures are rarely announced near elections. - Media regulation nominally protects editorial independence; national broadcasters face administrative pressure; accreditation and access rules are selectively applied. - Official statistics and the national audit institution are subordinate to line ministries; release calendars and methods are shaped by input from political leaders; reports are sometimes reviewed before publication. - Senior civil service appointments are governed by merit rules with wide discretion for political appointments; political criteria affect career progression; vacancies are unevenly advertised.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

1 ( )



End of Block: rating hypothetical countries - country b

Start of Block: rating hypothetical countries - country c

Q1434 Timing  
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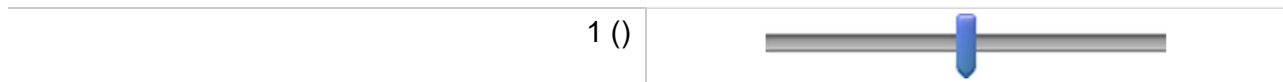
Q1435  $\{e://Field/intro\_2\}$

Q1440  $\{e://Field/third\_country\}$

Q1441 - Elections are regular but not competitive; opposition campaigns face severe restrictions on access to venues and media; incumbent use of state resources for campaigns is pervasive

and unconstrained. - Judges are appointed from ruling-party lists; the judiciary is not independent; courts do not review or annul executive acts. - Prosecutors are directed by the prime minister's office; charging decisions follow political directives; high-profile cases against opposition figures are frequently announced near elections. - Media regulation permits executive control; national broadcasters face severe pressure to conform; accreditation and access rules exclude critical outlets. - Official statistics and the national audit institution are controlled by the executive branch; release calendars and methods are directed by political leaders; reports are frequently delayed, altered, or withheld. - Senior civil service appointments are made at the government's discretion without competitive merit procedures; political appointments are standard; vacancies are not publicly advertised.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100



End of Block: rating hypothetical countries - country c

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Start of Block: Threat / benefit intro

Q1132 In this section of the survey, we ask you to assess a series of events that recently occurred. What impact (if any) has each had on American democracy?

End of Block: Threat / benefit intro

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Start of Block: Section 4a.1: threats to democracy - orlando hernandez

- Q860 Timing
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  - Last Click (2)
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  - Click Count (4)
-

threat\_bin\_orlando\_h Trump pardons Orlando Hernandez, the former president of Honduras, who was serving 45 years in prison for helping drug traffickers import cocaine to the U.S.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

End of Block: Section 4a.1: threats to democracy - orlando hernandez

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Start of Block: Section 4a.2: threats to democracy - prosecute political enemies

Q858 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

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threat\_bin\_prosecute Trump directs Attorney General Pam Bondi to prosecute his political enemies in a Truth Social message.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

End of Block: Section 4a.2: threats to democracy - prosecute political enemies

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Start of Block: Section 4a.3: threats to democracy - DOD news outlets

Q859 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

threat\_bin\_DOD The Defense Department demands news outlets sign a pledge not to gather any information that hasn't been authorized for release.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

End of Block: Section 4a.3: threats to democracy - DOD news outlets

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Start of Block: Section 4a.4: threats to democracy - university compact

Q861 Timing  
First Click (1)  
Last Click (2)  
Page Submit (3)  
Click Count (4)

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threat\_bin\_uni\_ask Trump administration asks universities to join its Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education, which would increase federal control of university policies.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

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Page Break

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threat\_bin\_uni\_deny Universities refuse to sign the Trump administration's Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education, which would increase federal control of university policies.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

**End of Block: Section 4a.4: threats to democracy - university compact**

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**Start of Block: Section 4a.5: threats to democracy - military drug strikes**

Q1201 Timing  
First Click (1)  
Last Click (2)  
Page Submit (3)  
Click Count (4)

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threat\_bin\_drug\_boat The U.S. military destroys more than twenty boats alleged to be carrying drugs.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
  - Will not affect American democracy (2)
  - Threat to American democracy (3)
- 

Page Break

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threat\_bin\_drug\_kill U.S. military kills two survivors of initial military strike in a second strike on an alleged drug smuggling boat on September 2, 2025.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

End of Block: Section 4a.5: threats to democracy - military drug strikes

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Start of Block: threats to democracy - third term

Q963 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

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threat\_bin\_term Trump acknowledges that he is ineligible to run for a third term.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

End of Block: threats to democracy - third term

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Start of Block: threats to democracy - dems military video

Q964 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

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threat\_bin\_dem\_video Six Democratic lawmakers with military or intelligence backgrounds issue a video stating that military personnel should not obey unlawful orders.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

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Page Break

threat\_bin\_dem\_trump Trump accuses Democratic lawmakers of “seditious behavior, punishable by death” for releasing a video stating that military personnel should not obey unlawful orders.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

End of Block: threats to democracy - dems military video

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Start of Block: threats to democracy - indictments dismissed

Q966 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

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threat\_bin\_dismissal Federal judge dismisses federal criminal cases against former FBI Director James Comey and New York Attorney General Letitia James.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

End of Block: threats to democracy - indictments dismissed

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Start of Block: threats to democracy - pardons

Q967 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

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threat\_bin\_pardons Trump pardons his former attorney and chief of staff as well as nearly 80 other allies accused of plot to overturn 2020 election.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

End of Block: threats to democracy - pardons

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Start of Block: threats to democracy - DOJ voter data

Q968 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

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threat\_bin\_DOJ\_suit The Department of Justice sues 18 states to access voter data.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

End of Block: threats to democracy - DOJ voter data

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Start of Block: threats to democracy - FBI firings

Q969 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

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threat\_bin\_FBI FBI Director Kash Patel shuts down the FBI's public corruption investigation unit and fires agents who worked on investigations related to Trump.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

End of Block: threats to democracy - FBI firings

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Start of Block: threats to democracy - visa denial policy

Q970 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

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threat\_bin\_visas State Department issues policy to deny visas to applicants who have worked in content moderation, fact-checking, or combating misinformation.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

End of Block: threats to democracy - visa denial policy

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Start of Block: threats to democracy - harvard

Q971 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

threat\_bin\_harvard Federal judge rules Trump administration's attempts to condition Harvard's federal funding on policy changes violate First Amendment.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

End of Block: threats to democracy - harvard

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Start of Block: threats to democracy - kilmar abrego garcia

Q972 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

threat\_bin\_kilmar\_ag Federal judge orders release of Kilmar Abrego Garcia, finding Trump administration misled the court and detained him "without lawful authority".

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

End of Block: threats to democracy - kilmar abrego garcia

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Start of Block: threats to democracy - no kings

Q973 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

threat\_bin\_no\_kings Estimated 7 million Americans participate in October "No Kings" protests across approximately 2,700 cities—the largest single-day demonstration in U.S. history.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

End of Block: threats to democracy - no kings

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Start of Block: threats to democracy - charlie kirk

Q974 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

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threat\_bin\_kirk More than 600 people are fired, suspended, or investigated for their speech about the killing of Charlie Kirk.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

End of Block: threats to democracy - charlie kirk

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Start of Block: threats to democracy - maduro

Q1447 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

threat\_bin\_maduro The U.S. carries out strikes against Venezuela and captures Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

End of Block: threats to democracy - maduro

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Start of Block: threats to democracy - kelly

Q1449 Timing  
First Click (1)  
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Page Submit (3)  
Click Count (4)

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threat\_bin\_kelly Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth announces proceedings aimed at reducing Senator Mark Kelly's rank and retirement pay over his statements in a video with other Democratic lawmakers asserting that military personnel should not obey unlawful orders.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

End of Block: threats to democracy - kelly

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Start of Block: Section 4a.6: Threats to democracy extent

Q863 Timing  
First Click (1)  
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Page Submit (3)  
Click Count (4)

Display this question:

*If Trump pardons Orlando Hernandez, the former president of Honduras, who was serving 45 years in pr... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Or Trump directs Attorney General Pam Bondi to prosecute his political enemies in a Truth Social mes... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Or The Defense Department demands news outlets sign a pledge not to gather any information that hasn... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Or Trump administration asks universities to join its Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Educ... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Or Universities refuse to sign the Trump administration's Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Or The U.S. military destroys more than twenty boats alleged to be carrying drugs. = Benefit to American democracy*

*Or U.S. military kills two survivors of initial military strike in a second strike on an alleged dru... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Or Trump acknowledges that he is ineligible to run for a third term. = Benefit to American democracy*

*Or Six Democratic lawmakers with military or intelligence backgrounds issue a video stating that mil... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Or Trump accuses Democratic lawmakers of "seditious behavior, punishable by death" for releasing a v... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Or Federal judge dismisses federal criminal cases against former FBI Director James Comey and New Yo... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Or Trump pardons his former attorney and chief of staff as well as nearly 80 other allies accused of... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Or The Department of Justice sues 18 states to access voter data. = Benefit to American democracy*

*Or FBI Director Kash Patel shuts down the FBI's public corruption investigation unit and fires agent... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Or State Department issues policy to deny visas to applicants who have worked in content moderation,... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Or Federal judge rules Trump administration's attempts to condition Harvard's federal funding on pol... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Or Federal judge orders release of Kilmar Abrego Garcia, finding Trump administration misled the cou... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Or Estimated 7 million Americans participate in October "No Kings" protests across approximately 2,7... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Or More than 600 people are fired, suspended, or investigated for their speech about the killing of... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Or The U.S. carries out strikes against Venezuela and captures Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. = Benefit to American democracy*

*Or Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth announces proceedings aimed at reducing Senator Mark Kelly's ra... = Benefit to American democracy*

benefits You indicated that the following are benefits to American democracy. We would now like you to rate the degree to which they are a benefit to democracy.

*Display this choice:*

*If Trump pardons Orlando Hernandez, the former president of Honduras, who was serving 45 years in pr... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Display this choice:*

*If Trump directs Attorney General Pam Bondi to prosecute his political enemies in a Truth Social mes... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Display this choice:*

*If The Defense Department demands news outlets sign a pledge not to gather any information that hasn... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Display this choice:*

*If Trump administration asks universities to join its Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Educ... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Display this choice:*

*If Universities refuse to sign the Trump administration's Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Display this choice:*

*If The U.S. military destroys more than twenty boats alleged to be carrying drugs. = Benefit to American democracy*

*Display this choice:*

*If U.S. military kills two survivors of initial military strike in a second strike on an alleged dru... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Display this choice:*

*If Trump acknowledges that he is ineligible to run for a third term. = Benefit to American democracy*

*Display this choice:*

*If Six Democratic lawmakers with military or intelligence backgrounds issue a video stating that mil... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Display this choice:*

*If Trump accuses Democratic lawmakers of "seditious behavior, punishable by death" for releasing a v... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Display this choice:*

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	Little benefit to American democracy (2)	Moderate benefit to American democracy (3)	Serious benefit to American democracy (4)	Extraordinary benefit to American democracy (5)
--	------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------

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Trump pardons Orlando Hernandez, the former president of Honduras,

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release. (229)

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democracy

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content  
moderation, fact-  
checking, or  
combating  
misinformation.  
(242)**

*Display this  
choice:  
  
If Federal  
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administration's  
attempts to  
condition  
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**Federal judge  
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Harvard's federal  
funding on policy  
changes violate  
First  
Amendment.  
(243)**

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Secretary of Defense Pete



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statements in a  
video with other  
Democratic  
lawmakers  
asserting that  
military  
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not obey  
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(260)

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Page Break

Display this question:

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threats You indicated that the following are threats to American democracy. We would now like you to rate the degree to which they are a threat to democracy.

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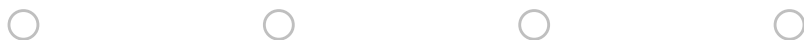
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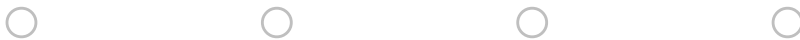
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(246)

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(259)

*Display this choice:  
If Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth announces proceedings aimed at reducing Senator Mark Kelly's ra... = Threat to American democracy*

Secretary of Defense Pete



Hegseth announces proceedings aimed at reducing Senator Mark Kelly's rank and retirement pay over his statements in a video with other Democratic lawmakers asserting that military personnel should not obey unlawful orders.  
(260)

End of Block: Section 4a.6: Threats to democracy extent

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Start of Block: academic freedom intro

Q1050 Timing  
First Click (1)  
Last Click (2)  
Page Submit (3)  
Click Count (4)

---

Q1024 The next questions ask about your views related to academic freedom. Academic freedom is the freedom of teachers or researchers in higher education to investigate and discuss the issues in their academic field, and to teach or publish findings without interference from political figures, boards of trustees, donors, or other entities. Academic freedom also protects the right of faculty members to speak freely when participating in institutional governance, as well as to speak freely as a citizen. If you teach or conduct research at more than one institution, use the school that you consider your primary institution.

End of Block: academic freedom intro

---

Start of Block: academic freedom

Q1048 Timing  
First Click (1)  
Last Click (2)  
Page Submit (3)  
Click Count (4)

---



aca\_freedom How much academic freedom do you have in the following?

	None (1)	A little (2)	Some (3)	Quite a bit (4)	A great deal (5)
Extramural speech (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Research (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Teaching (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

End of Block: academic freedom

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Start of Block: academic freedom institution support

Q1049 Timing  
First Click (1)  
Last Click (2)  
Page Submit (3)  
Click Count (4)

---

institution\_support Please select the option below that best describes your view. The administration of the university where I teach supports academic freedom.

- Not at all (1)
- A little (2)
- Somewhat (3)
- Quite a bit (4)
- A great deal (5)

End of Block: academic freedom institution support

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Start of Block: Metaculus Future scenarios

Q867 Timing  
First Click (1)  
Last Click (2)  
Page Submit (3)  
Click Count (4)

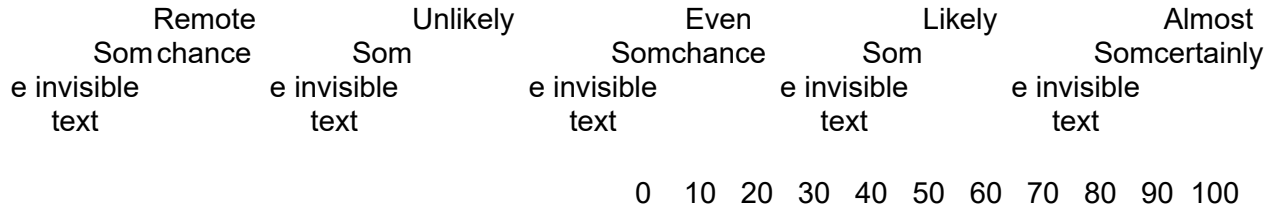
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Q853 The goal of this portion of the survey is to understand how respondents assess the likelihood of some **political** events that could occur in the future. We will ask you to assess the chances that each one will occur by the specified date. For example, we might ask you to rate the chances that Congress passes legislation to limit the terms of future Supreme Court justices to 18 years by the end of 2025. For more background and the specific resolution criteria for an event, click the **Show Resolution Criteria and Background Info** button under the event wording.

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percentage\_forecast We ask you to provide your answers using numeric percentages. If you think the scenario will occur with near certainty, then you would give an answer close to 100%. If you think there is only a remote chance that the scenario will occur, then you would give an answer close to 0%, and if you think the scenario is as likely to occur as not to occur, then you would give an answer close to 50%.



Will the U.S. president formally invoke the Insurrection Act before 2027? Show Additional Information **Resolution Criteria**

This question will resolve as Yes if credible sources report that the sitting president has formally invoked the Insurrection Act before 2027. **Fine Print** The invocation must explicitly invoke the Insurrection Act or make reference to the legal provisions under the Act. A statement by the president saying that the Act could be invoked would not qualify.

**Background Info** The Insurrection Act grants the president authority to deploy the US armed forces for domestic law enforcement purposes. It was last formally invoked in 1992, when President George H.W. Bush sent federal troops to Los Angeles after the Rodney King verdict sparked widespread unrest. President Trump threatened to invoke the act during the nationwide protests following the killing of George Floyd in 2020 but no formal proclamation or order under the statute was issued. ()



Will the Department of Justice indict a high-profile individual from the opposing party to the U.S. president before 2027? Show Additional Information **Resolution Criteria**

This question will resolve as Yes if, before 2027, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) announces a new investigation or prosecution of an individual who, while a member of the opposing party to the sitting president, fulfilled at least one of the following: Served as President or Vice President of the United States Held the position of Speaker of the House or House Minority Leader, Senate Majority or Minority Leader, House or Senate Majority or Minority Whip Served as an impeachment manager during any impeachment proceeding against the sitting president. **Fine Print** The opposing party is the Republican Party if the President is a Democrat and the Democratic Party if the President is a Republican. If the President is neither, the corresponding subquestion will be annulled. The DOJ must publicly and officially announce the initiation of an investigation or prosecution against the individual. The resolution does not require a conviction or final outcome—only the announcement of a



formal investigation or prosecution. For clarity, the question includes impeachment managers formally appointed for the relevant impeachment proceedings and leadership roles active as of the time of the DOJ's announcement. For example, for Donald Trump, any of the following would qualify: The 2019-2020 impeachment managers: Adam Schiff, Jerry Nadler, Zoe Lofgren, Hakeem Jeffries, Val Demings, Sylvia Garcia, and Jason Crow. The 2020-2021 impeachment managers: Jamie Raskin, Diana DeGette, David Cicilline, Joaquin Castro, Eric Swalwell, Ted Lieu, Stacey Plaskett, Madeline Dean, and Joe Neguse. **Background Info** Since Watergate, the Department of Justice (DOJ) has maintained independence from the White House in criminal prosecutions, though that norm has often been tested. While individual members of Congress and former officials from both parties have faced federal investigations, there was little precedent for DOJ indicting current or former top leaders of the opposition party before 2020. During Joe Biden's presidency, however, Attorney General Merrick Garland appointed special counsel Jack Smith, who indicted former President Trump on federal charges related to both his handling of classified materials and his role in the January 6, 2021 riot at the U.S. Capitol. During his 2024 presidential campaign, Donald Trump repeatedly vowed to pursue investigations and prosecutions against political opponents. Direct prosecution of a high-profile Democrat by the DOJ under the Trump administration would mark a notable shift in precedent. ()

Will U.S. federal military forces be deployed for non-routine domestic missions in three or more large metro areas in 2027-2028? Show Additional Information **Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if there are three or more separate U.S. metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) with a total population of more than 500,000 in which active-duty U.S. military forces or federalized National Guard units have been deployed for a non-routine domestic mission at any time in 2027-2028. To count, a deployment must fulfill all of the following criteria: It must consist of active



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duty-troops or National Guard troops called into federal service. There must be at least 30 deployed troops and they must operate inside the MSA for at least 12 continuous hours. If official counts are not released or documented, we will rely on estimates by credible sources. The primary purpose of the deployment must be domestic, operational, and non-routine. Non-routine duties for purposes of this question include riot control, large-scale civil disturbance, and enforcing federal directives. **Fine Print** The population threshold will be determined using the most recent U.S. Census Bureau estimate. As of the writing of the question, 145 MSAs have a population of more than 500,000. Missions such as disaster relief, border operations within 100 miles of a land border that mirror those taken before January 20, 2025, pre-planned ceremonial or training activities, and regularly scheduled National Special Security Events (e.g., the Presidential Inauguration) are considered routine missions and do not count. If a stated purpose for a deployment mixes a non-routine with a routine mission, it will count. A deployment will count if any part occurs in the period in question, meaning that the summer 2025 deployment in LA counts for the purposes of this question. Similarly, a December 31, 2026 deployment that continues into the next day would count for both of the periods in question. **Background Info** Domestic deployment of federal troops to major U.S. metropolitan areas is rare and generally requires the president to invoke the Insurrection Act or otherwise place National Guard troops in Title 10 (federal) status. The most recent high-profile instance came during President Trump's first term in response to the George Floyd protests, when about 1,600 active-duty soldiers were moved into the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria MSA in June 2020. Before that, the 1992 Los Angeles riots saw roughly 3,000-4,000 Army and Marine personnel deployed alongside 6,000 California National Guard troops in the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim MSA. Now, in his second term, two qualifying deployments have already occurred. Beginning June 9, 2025, President Trump federalized roughly 4,100

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California National Guard members and dispatched about 700 active-duty Marines to downtown Los Angeles to protect federal facilities amid large-scale unrest during immigration protests. Later that summer, in August 2025, he also deployed several hundred active-duty Army personnel and federalized Guard troops to the Washington–Arlington–Alexandria MSA in response to escalating demonstrations near federal buildings. Both deployments meet the criteria in the question — federal personnel, the continuous presence of more than thirty troops, and a non-routine domestic mission — contributing two qualifying events to the eventual count. After the Los Angeles deployment, President Trump signaled further moves, stating, “If we need to, we’re going to do the same thing in Chicago, which is a disaster.” He also warned of potential troop deployments to Baltimore, calling it a “hellhole” and asserting, “We have the right to do it because I have an obligation to protect this country.” ()

Will the habeas corpus be suspended for any group of people within the United States before 2027? Show Additional Information

**Resolution Criteria** Each subquestion will resolve as Yes if, at any time before 2027, the writ of habeas corpus is formally suspended by the sitting president for any identifiable group of people within the United States or its territories. **Fine Print** An “identifiable group of people” means any class of persons defined by legal, political, geographic, demographic, or status-based criteria. Examples include, but are not limited to, non-citizens, asylum seekers, refugees, protestors, political dissidents, individuals in immigration detention, or residents of specific regions or states. A suspension of habeas corpus refers to any executive action that denies or blocks individuals in the identified group from exercising the right to petition for habeas corpus in U.S. federal courts. The suspension must be deliberate and apply to the group as a whole. Temporary processing delays or isolated case denials do not qualify.

**Background Info** In May 2025, Stephen Miller, a senior advisor in the Trump



administration, stated that the administration was “actively looking at” suspending the writ of habeas corpus to facilitate deportations, citing the constitutional provision allowing suspension “in time of invasion”. This consideration arises amidst the administration’s invocation of the 1798 Alien Enemies Act to expedite the deportation of individuals, particularly targeting members of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua. The use of this wartime law has led to legal challenges and scrutiny over due process rights. The Supreme Court clarified that deportations under the Alien Enemies Act must remain subject to habeas review and directed that challenges be filed in the districts where detainees are held, but it did not block the policy outright. Subsequently, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the administration’s use of the Act exceeded its statutory authority, effectively halting the removals. ()

Will a U.S. federal court hold any part of the executive branch in contempt for not obeying a federal court ruling before 2027? Show Additional Information **Resolution Criteria** Each subquestion will resolve as Yes if, before 2027, any U.S. federal court formally holds any agency or official of the executive branch in contempt (civil or criminal) for either: direct non-compliance with a court order, judgment, or mandate OR non-compliance with a federal court order that implements a court mandate. The contempt order must explicitly cite the court mandate in question. **Fine Print** The subquestion will resolve as Yes even if the contempt ruling is later reversed. Federal courts consist of federal district courts, circuit courts, courts of appeals, and the Supreme Court. **Background Info** According to 18 U.S.C. § 401, a US federal court "shall have power to punish by fine or imprisonment, or both, at its discretion, such contempt of its authority, and none other, as... Disobedience or resistance to its lawful writ, process, order, rule, decree, or command." Over 250 cases had been filed in federal courts seeking to block policies of President Donald Trump's second administration. One such early example stemmed from the Trump



Administration's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on January 28, 2025 issuing a freeze on disbursements of federal grants and loans, with the acting OMB director saying, "The use of Federal resources to advance Marxist equity, transgenderism, and green new deal social engineering policies is a waste of taxpayer dollars that does not improve the day-to-day lives of those we serve." Almost immediately, Democratic attorneys general from 22 states and Washington, D.C., filed suit, and on January 31, a federal district court judge issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) blocking the freeze. Ten days later the AGs, accusing the Trump Administration of failing to comply with the order, filed an emergency motion to get the court to compel the Administration to release the frozen funds. The judge ruled that the Administration had in fact ignored the court order and granted the motion, writing: "The broad categorical and sweeping freeze of federal funds is, as the Court found, likely unconstitutional and has caused and continues to cause irreparable harm to a vast portion of this country. These pauses in funding violate the plain text of the TRO." ()

Will a U.S. federal judge be impeached in a partisan vote before 2027? Show Additional Information **Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, before 2027, a United States federal judge is impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives with fewer than half of the representatives of at least one of the major parties voting for the impeachment. **Fine Print** The reason for impeachment is immaterial for the purposes of this question. Conviction in the U.S. Senate is not necessary for this question to resolve as Yes. **Background Info** Impeachment of federal judges in the United States is a rare and serious action, typically reserved for cases involving significant misconduct or ethical violations. The process requires a majority vote in the House of Representatives to impeach and a two-thirds majority in the Senate to convict and remove the judge from office. Historically, very few federal judges have been impeached and removed, and none solely for their judicial decisions. In



March 2025, President Donald Trump called for the impeachment of U.S. District Judge James Boasberg after Boasberg issued a temporary restraining order halting deportations under the Alien Enemies Act of 1798. Chief Justice John Roberts responded by stating that impeachment is not an appropriate response to disagreements over judicial decisions. ()

Will a U.S. federal or state court prevent certification of any statewide election result because of fraud? Show Additional Information **Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, in the corresponding two-year period, a U.S. federal or state court issues an order that voids or blocks the vote certification process for two weeks, orders a recount, or declares the election unconstitutional for any statewide election and the order cites fraud as a reason for the decision. **Fine Print** The order has to be issued before April 1 of the following year after the corresponding two-year period and must remain in effect for two weeks. A ruling that does not clearly mention the likelihood of fraud as a reason will not resolve this question, even if fraud was part of the plaintiff's complaint. If the ruling is later stayed or overturned on appeal, it will still count. The decision to hold a new election will suffice as voiding or blocking certification provided that the initial election was voided or blocked on the basis of voter or election fraud. For the purposes of this question, a federal court refers to a United States District Court, a United States Court of Appeals, or the United States Supreme Court. A state court refers to a state's court of last resort, any intermediate statewide appellate court, or a state district court. The scope of this question includes any statewide runoff elections. **Background Info** Courts have some degree of legal and constitutional authority to order recounts, temporarily enjoin certification, or in theory declare elections unlawful. In practice, such interventions have been rare. Courts have occasionally ordered recounts or halted them (as in *Bush v. Gore*), but no U.S. federal or state court has ever voided or blocked certification of a statewide election due to



fraud. Though voter fraud is vanishingly rare, the 2020 presidential election and the 2022 midterm elections saw serious legal contention of election results over allegations of voter fraud. Spurred by Donald Trump's claims of rampant fraud in the 2020 U.S. presidential election, which he lost, and the associated "Stop the Steal" movement, several losing candidates in statewide elections called for legal intervention or investigation into their losses. After the 2020 presidential election alone, more than 60 lawsuits were filed by Trump and his allies, though all but one minor procedural case were rejected and none substantiated fraud claims. As President Trump has not retracted his false claims of election fraud (and continues to warn about its potential impact on the 2026 midterm elections), losing candidates may feel emboldened to attribute their losses to voter fraud, potentially putting pressure on the courts to take an unprecedented action. ( )

Will a U.S. federal or state court prevent certification of any 2025-2026 statewide election result because of foreign interference? Show Additional Information

**Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, for any 2025-2026 statewide election result, a U.S. federal or state court issues an order that voids or blocks the vote certification process, orders a recount, or declares the election unconstitutional for any statewide election and the order cites foreign interference as a reason for the decision.

**Fine Print** The order has to be issued before April 1, 2027. If the ruling is later stayed or overturned on appeal, it will still count. The decision to hold a new election will suffice as voiding or blocking certification provided that the initial election was voided or blocked on the basis of foreign interference. For the purposes of this question, a federal court refers to a United States District Court, a United States Court of Appeals, or the United States Supreme Court. A state court refers to a state's court of last resort, any intermediate statewide appellate court, or a state district court. The scope of this question includes any runoff elections held after Election Day as part of a general election (i.e., in Georgia or



Louisiana). **Background Info** Courts have some degree of legal and constitutional authority to order recounts, temporarily enjoin certification, or in theory declare elections unlawful. In practice, such interventions have been rare. Courts have occasionally ordered recounts or halted them (as in Bush v. Gore), but no U.S. federal or state court has ever voided or blocked certification of a statewide election due to foreign interference. While U.S. intelligence agencies have reported attempts by foreign actors such as Russia, China, and Iran to influence U.S. elections over the past decade, there is no evidence that the process of vote tallying or certification has been affected. ()

Will more than five U.S. states have  $\geq 12\%$  population deviation in their state legislative districts in 2025-2026? Show Additional Information **Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, in the state legislative elections taking place in the 2025-2026 period, more than 5 U.S. states use maps with a difference of 12% or higher between the population of their largest and their smallest district. This will be defined as follows:  $100 * ((\text{Population of largest district} - \text{population of smallest district}) / \text{ideal district population}) \%$  where the ideal district population is defined as the total population of the state divided by the number of districts (i.e., an equal apportionment). **Fine Print** The population data must be derived from the most recent U.S. Census data or officially adopted map-based estimates referenced in the redistricting process at the time of the election. In the case of conflicting population data, the figures officially referenced or adopted by the redistricting authority shall prevail. Any population difference of 12% or higher in a Congressional or state legislative map that is used in the corresponding election will resolve the question as Yes. The 2021-2022 and 2025-2026 subquestions have been added and subsequently annulled for technical reasons related to the structure of the U.S. Democracy Threat Index. **Background Info** Districts are geographic areas that elect representatives to legislative bodies such as the U.S. House of Representatives and state



legislatures. Their boundaries are set in different ways in each state and can change over time. While the Supreme Court's "one person, one vote" rulings set forth the principle that districts should be equal in population so that each person's vote carries the same weight, in practice, a reasonable level of variation is accepted. One measure of deviation from that principle is population deviation, which is defined as the difference between the most populated district and the least populated district divided by the ideal district size if split equally by state population. In recent election cycles, several states have used legislative maps with population deviations well above 12%, most notably Hawaii, whose 2022 Senate plan had an overall range of 43.03%. While the Supreme Court established in *Reynolds v. Sims* that state legislative districts must follow the principle of "one person, one vote," it has allowed deviations greater than 10% if justified by consistent, legitimate state policies. The general rule is that a total range under 10% is presumed constitutional, while ranges above that are presumptively invalid unless the state can show strong reasons, such as preserving county or island integrity. By contrast, for U.S. House districts the Court has required equality "as nearly as practicable," meaning that even minor deviations must be specifically justified. The redistricting of 2020, used in the 2022 and 2024 elections, shows 5 states using maps with a greater population deviation than 10%

Hawaii: House 14.69%, Senate 43.03%	Vermont: House 16.65%, Senate 14.41%
South Dakota: House 14.34%, Senate 12.81%	Rhode Island: House 9.75%, Senate 12.92%
Wyoming: House 10.54%, Senate 10.96%	( )

Will two or more losing major-party candidates for governor or U.S. Senator in competitive races refuse to concede defeat before 2027? Show Additional Information

**Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, before 2027, two or more defeated Democratic or Republican candidates in competitive races for statewide office do not publicly concede the election to their



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opponents by 15 days after the race is called by the Associated Press (AP). A race is defined as competitive if there is a candidate nominated by both the Democratic and Republican parties and the consensus forecast on the website 270towin has the race marked as a “Lean,” “Tilt,” or “Toss-Up” in the latest pre-election snapshot of the website on the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine.

**Fine Print** Refusal to publicly concede defeat is defined as either (1) a runner-up failing to announce or disseminate a statement of defeat or (2) making a statement that explicitly refuses to acknowledge the opponent’s victory following the call by the AP (or where AP does not call the race, a credible source). To code ambiguous concession statements, we will refer to the concessions codebook developed by Bright Line Watch. If 270towin site is not updated or if any race is missing a forecast, the question will resolve by aggregating forecasts from The Cook Political Report, Sabato’s Crystal Ball, and RacetotheWH or whichever of these websites are still updated using the latest pre-election snapshot of the website on the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine. “Safe” and “Solid” are taken as equivalent ratings and “Leans” and “Tilts” are equivalent ratings across the different forecasting sites. The consensus rating is defined as the median rating for each race. If a race proceeds to a runoff or second round, the concession is judged based on the final contest outcome. **Background Info**

Historically, candidates for statewide office concede defeat within days of results being called even in close races. Concession is not legally required, but it is a longstanding democratic norm that is seen as essential for affirming election legitimacy. Following President Trump’s refusal to concede in 2020, a number of down-ballot candidates also refused or delayed concessions (such as Kari Lake in Arizona in 2022). A Bright Line Watch report on concessions in 2020 and 2022 found that 23% of second-place candidates in U.S. Senate races in 2020 and 2022 did not concede, though the report did not differentiate between competitive and non-competitive races. ()

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Will an opposing-party authority block or remove a major-party nominee for statewide office from the U.S. general-election ballot before 2027? Show Additional Information

**Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, before 2027, credible sources report that an authority from a political party opposed to a major-party nominee for statewide office has taken action that results in the nominee being blocked from being listed on the general-election ballot or removed from an existing general-election ballot. **Fine Print**

For the purposes of this question, statewide office positions refer to the following:

Governor, Lieutenant Governor (where separately elected), Secretary of State (where elected), U.S. Senator, and state Supreme Court justices (where elected). Opposing-party authority refers to a formal body or entity controlled by the other party. Examples include single-party officials (e.g., Secretary of State), election boards or panels with majorities composed of members from the opposing party or appointed by politicians from the opposing party, or court panels in which the majority of members were appointed by officials of the opposing party, elected as a member of the opposing party (e.g., state supreme court justices in North Carolina since 2018), or were elected with the official endorsement of and/or funding from the opposing party in the state (e.g., state supreme court justices in Wisconsin). Related actions (e.g., threats, unsuccessful litigation) that do not result in a candidate being blocked or removed from the general-election ballot will not trigger a Yes resolution. The nominee must have been officially certified or recognized as the presumptive nominee at the time of removal. A "presumptive nominee" refers to a candidate who has clinched the nomination mathematically (e.g., by securing a majority of pledged delegates or winning enough state primaries) or is considered by credible sources to be the party's de facto nominee without serious contest.

**Background Info** State election boards and courts sometimes remove candidates from ballots for administrative reasons such as missed filing deadlines or insufficient petition



signatures. These actions generally take place during primaries and are rarely seen as partisan maneuvers. By contrast, there is no modern precedent of a major-party nominee for a statewide office (e.g., governor or U.S. senator) being blocked from the general-election ballot by an authority controlled by the opposing party after securing the nomination. (In 2024, the Supreme Court rejected a challenge to President Trump's eligibility for the ballot under Section 3 of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution). ()

Will any U.S. authority refuse to recognize the citizenship of U.S.-born children of non-citizen parents for 90 days before 2027? Show Additional Information **Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, before 2027, a federal, state, or local government denies or refuses to recognize the citizenship status of one or more U.S.-born children of non-citizen parents for a continuous period of 90 days or more. **Fine Print** The relevant authorities are federal, state, or local government entities, including executive agencies, departments, and administrative offices. Courts are not considered acting authorities for the purposes of this question, though they may intervene by blocking or permitting actions taken by government entities. Examples that would resolve a subquestion as Yes include, but are not limited to, refusing to recognize birth certificates absent other proof of citizenship, denying birth certificates, altering birth certificates to indicate citizenship status (or the lack thereof), and denying or limiting government benefits or other forms of status (e.g., federally-funded Medicaid eligibility). Stalling, bureaucratic delays, or refusal to act without formal denial do not by themselves count toward the 90-day period. There must be evidence of policy-level or directive-based denials. The 90-day period will start counting from the time of the first denial. If a qualifying government action is blocked by a court or overturned before 90 days elapse, the question will not resolve as Yes. The 90-day period must be consecutive and take place in one jurisdiction but can encompass multiple individuals, as long as one or more U.S.-born



children of non-citizen parents are being denied citizenship for 90 consecutive days in that jurisdiction. For instance, if person A is denied citizenship by a jurisdiction for days 1-45 and person B is denied citizenship for days 40-90, the question would resolve as Yes.

**Background Info** Birthright citizenship in the U.S. is grounded in the 14th Amendment, which guarantees that all persons born on American soil (except for children of foreign diplomats or occupying enemies) are U.S. citizens. No federal, state, or local authority has ever successfully denied citizenship to U.S.-born children of non-citizen parents for any extended period in modern history. On January 20, 2025, President Trump issued Executive Order 14160, which purported to revoke birthright citizenship for children born to non-citizen or temporarily present parents. Legal experts have widely concluded that the executive order is unconstitutional. Multiple lawsuits were swiftly filed challenging the order, and several federal judges issued injunctions blocking its enforcement nationwide. However, the Supreme Court ruled in *Trump v. CASA, Inc.* that lower courts lack the authority to issue universal injunctions. Following that ruling, some district courts certified class-action lawsuits to extend protections more broadly (*Barbara v. Trump*). ()

Will U.S. authorities transfer any current or former U.S. citizen to a prison abroad before 2027? Show Additional Information

**Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, before 2027, U.S. authorities transfer any current or former U.S. citizen to a prison outside U.S. borders without the citizen's voluntary request. **Fine Print** For the purposes of this question, U.S. authorities refer to any state or federal entity with the authority to transfer prisoners to other prisons and/or jails. These authorities include, but are not necessarily limited to, the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and state correctional departments. For the purposes of this question, "abroad" refers to any location outside the borders of the United States. This excludes American military or



correctional facilities located in other countries (e.g., Guantanamo Bay). This question excludes extraditions ordered by a U.S. court following treaty obligations. The transfer must not be voluntarily initiated by the transferred individual, such as under the International Prisoner Transfer Program. Any transfer of a U.S. citizen to a correctional facility abroad will count even if the crime and/or sentence length are not specified, the government mistakenly records a citizen as a noncitizen and transfers them, or a judicial order immediately reverses the transfer. If a prisoner is ordered to be transferred to a correctional facility abroad but the transfer is halted for any reason, the question will not resolve as Yes. Only successful transfers to correctional facilities abroad are considered sufficient.

**Background Info** Transferring a U.S. citizen to a prison abroad is highly unusual. The U.S. typically moves people between domestic facilities or deports non-citizens to serve foreign sentences. There is no recent precedent for the U.S. sending an American citizen to serve a sentence in a foreign prison without their consent. However, in April 2025, President Trump openly floated the idea of sending “homegrown” to serve sentences in prisons in El Salvador, urging President Nayib Bukele to “build about five more places” for them to be detained. ()

Will the U.S. government seek to revoke a naturalized citizen's citizenship for post-naturalization conduct before 2027? Show Additional Information **Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, before 2027, the United States Department of Justice formally requests that a court revoke the citizenship of a naturalized citizen for any cited or alleged conduct occurring after naturalization. **Fine Print** For the purposes of this question, revoking citizenship refers to any formal abrogation of citizenship regardless of any pursuant litigation and its associated outcome. The Department of Justice must cite post-naturalization conduct as the primary basis for citizenship annulment in its court filing. This conduct can refer to fraud, criminal activity, or any other actions after naturalization. It can also include a claim



of post-naturalization membership in the Communist Party or another party designated as totalitarian or as a terrorist organization (see 8 USC 1451: Revocation of naturalization). For the purposes of this question, naturalized citizen refers to a person who was granted U.S. citizenship through the formal naturalization process, as opposed to birthright or derivative citizenship. Both demonstrated and alleged misconduct are considered sufficient so long as the filing identifies that the conduct ostensibly occurred after naturalization. **Background Info** Revocation of naturalized citizenship is governed by 8 USC 1451. Historically, almost all U.S. denaturalization cases have involved pre-naturalization fraud or misrepresentation. While the law does permit revocation for post-naturalization conduct – including membership in a terrorist organization or totalitarian party – these cases are extraordinarily rare and there is no known attempt by the government to revoke citizenship on this basis in the last 60+ years. In June 2025, however, the Department of Justice issued a memo instructing U.S. attorneys to “maximally pursue denaturalization proceedings in all cases permitted by law. Republican representatives have also publicly called for revoking the citizenship of political opponents, notably Zohran Mamdani. ()

Will any U.S. state or the District of Columbia no longer have a previously existing anti-SLAPP law before 2027? Show Additional Information **Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, at any point before 2027, any U.S. state or the District of Columbia ends or does not have in effect fee-shifting or discovery stay provisions of previously existing anti-SLAPP laws. **Fine Print** For the purposes of this question, anti-SLAPP laws refer to statutes designed to protect individuals from lawsuits intended to censor or intimidate citizens from exercising their First Amendment rights, particularly in the context of public participation or free expression. Anti-SLAPP officially means laws protecting citizens from so-called “Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP).” As of June 2025, 38 U.S. states



and the District of Columbia have some form of an anti-SLAPP statute in place, though protections vary. Changes will be measured against this baseline of previously existing law. Provisions that have been enacted as of June 2025 but not yet gone into effect will be counted as the relevant legal baseline for the purpose of this question. For instance, Idaho's anti-SLAPP law goes into effect on January 1, 2026. If it were repealed in December 2025 and never went into effect by December 31, 2026, the question would resolve Yes. Ending fee-shifting refers to eliminating the practice of the losing party in a lawsuit paying the winning party's legal fees. Ending discovery stays refers to eliminating statutes allowing for the temporary suspension of the discovery process, a phase of pre-trial where parties exchange pertinent information to the case. Laws that end fee-shifting or discovery stays for certain subsets of cases (e.g., those related to media coverage) would resolve as Yes. If the removal of fee-shifting or discovery stays is repealed or successfully challenged in court after going into effect, the question will still resolve as Yes. **Background Info** Anti-SLAPP statutes are designed to protect people from lawsuits meant to intimidate or silence critics (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation). The core provisions are fee-shifting, which allows prevailing defendants to recover attorney's fees, and discovery stay, which pauses burdensome discovery while a motion to dismiss on anti-SLAPP grounds is pending. As of June 2025, 38 U.S. states and the District of Columbia have some form of an anti-SLAPP statute in place, though protections vary. One state (Washington) had its state supreme court overturn its anti-SLAPP statute in 2015, but enacted another law in 2021. ( )

Will *New York Times v. Sullivan* no longer be good law before 2027? Show Additional Information **Resolution Criteria** The question will resolve as Yes if, at any point before 2027, the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *New York Times v. Sullivan* is no longer good law because of a Supreme Court opinion that: Overturns it by expressly rejecting its central holding; or, Materially



narrows it, substantially reducing the protections for defamation defendants under the “actual malice” standard in cases regarding public officials or public figures.

**Fine Print** “Materially narrows” refers to any holding that: Eliminates, narrows, or alters the requirement that public officials or public figures prove a defendant acted with “knowledge of falsity” or “reckless disregard for the truth” in defamation cases (including replacing the standard with a lower threshold for liability or shifting the burden of proof); or Redefines “public official” or “public figure” in a way that shrinks these categories so that fewer individuals meet the actual malice standard. Definition of public official or public figure: As of July 2025, courts generally apply the “public official” label to government employees with substantial responsibility or control over public affairs, and “public figures” include individuals with widespread fame or influence, or those who have voluntarily injected themselves into a public controversy (i.e., limited-purpose public figures). If the Supreme Court issues a qualifying decision overturning or narrowing *New York Times v. Sullivan* in a prior year and that ruling remains in effect in the subsequent year, the question for that subsequent year will also resolve Yes. For instance, if the Supreme Court overturned *Sullivan* in 2025 and it was no longer good law, and it was still not good law at any point in 2026, the question would resolve Yes in both 2025 and 2026. In such cases, the question resolves as Yes if the decision is not good law for at least one day of the year in question. In this example, the 2026 question would resolve as Yes based on the legal standard on January 1. Conversely, if a qualifying decision is reversed or invalidated before January 1 of a subsequent year and is good law in the subsequent year, the later year’s question will resolve No even if a ruling was previously issued. **Background Info** *New York Times v. Sullivan* (1964) held that public officials suing for defamation must prove that a false statement was made with “actual malice.” This protection was later extended to public figures in cases like *Curtis Publishing Co. v. Butts* (1967). Without the

“actual malice” standard, public officials or public figures could prevail in lawsuits much more easily, potentially increasing defamation liability for actors like journalists or political activists. While *Sullivan* remains binding precedent, Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas and Neil Gorsuch have publicly criticized the decision’s legitimacy and called for it to be revisited. ()

Will the Department of Justice file criminal charges against one or more journalists under the Espionage Act before 2027? Show Additional Information **Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, before 2027, the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) files criminal charges under the Espionage Act of 1917 against one or more individuals identifiable as journalists at the time of the alleged conduct. **Fine Print** Charges must be filed by the DOJ in federal court (not state or military court) and must include one or more counts under the Espionage Act. This question adopts the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker’s functional definition of a journalist. An individual qualifies if they were engaged in an act of journalism—gathering, preparing, or disseminating news or information to the public—regardless of institutional affiliation, press credentials, or employment status. This includes individuals working independently or for formal news outlets. However, it does not include individuals who leak documents or other information from within institutions such as defense or intelligence agencies. **Background Info** Enacted in 1917, the Espionage Act criminalizes unauthorized possession, dissemination or communication of national defense information that could harm the U.S. or aid foreign powers. While it has been used against government employees and contractors who leak classified information (e.g., Edward Snowden), it has never been successfully used to convict a journalist. However, some advocates view its use against Julian Assange for publishing the Snowden documents on WikiLeaks as inappropriate (he eventually pled guilty to violating the Espionage Act). Though the act would be unprecedented, President Trump



and administration officials have made public remarks suggesting the prosecution of journalists during his second term (e.g., Trump and DHS Secretary Noem suggesting CNN reporters could be prosecuted for reporting on news like U.S. airstrikes in Iran). ( )

Will the White House direct federal agencies to target three or more high-profile presidential critics in 2027-2028? Show Additional Information **Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, in 2027-2028, credible sources report that the White House issued directive(s) instructing one or more federal agencies to initiate action targeting three or more named U.S. citizens who meet the definition of a high-profile presidential opponent or critic found in the fine print. **Fine Print** A directive is any oral or written instruction from the President or a White House official to an agency head or agency, intended to require specific action and phrased in imperative language. The directive must be documented in official records (e.g., executive orders, internal memos) or reported by multiple reputable sources based on direct evidence (such as transcripts, contemporaneous notes, or corroborated testimony). A high-profile opponent or critic of the president is someone who has made national news by expressing public disagreement with the president (including as an administration official), run against the president for office, threatened to or has sued the president, taken part in a legal investigation or impeachment of the president, or who was fired or removed from office by the president. The question will resolve as Yes only if credible sources suggest the individual's status as a high-profile presidential opponent or critic at least partially influenced the issuance of the directive. The directive must instruct the agency to take a consequential or targeted action with a clear adverse impact (e.g., initiating an audit, investigation, or regulatory inquiry) or that is otherwise linked to enforcement or punishment (e.g., revoking security clearance or pursuing administrative discipline). The resolution does not depend on whether the action was ultimately carried out — only that



the directive was issued. A named U.S. citizen refers to an individual identified by name or other unique identifiers (e.g., job title, public role) in the directive. The number of individuals may be aggregated across multiple unrelated directives. Each directive must target at least one unique individual. Multiple directives that concern only the same person will not count toward the total. **Background Info** Modern norms and internal rules generally limit White House involvement in specific enforcement actions, especially at the Department of Justice and independent agencies. The clearest historical precedent comes from the Nixon era, when the White House maintained an “enemies list” and sought to deploy federal power against identified opponents. ( )

Will senior DOJ leaders override normal procedures to protect the President, his family, or his allies from a legal case before 2027?  
Show Additional Information **Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, before 2027, credible sources show that a case involving the sitting president or his family, supporters, or allies is not pursued, deprioritized or slowed, or closed in a manner that deviates from normal DOJ procedure. **Fine Print** Senior DOJ leaders are defined as the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, Associate Attorney General, and the heads of the Criminal Division and National Security Division as well as any appointed Special Counsel. DOJ procedures are governed by the U.S. Attorneys’ Manual (now called the Justice Manual), federal regulations, internal departmental policies, and established norms of prosecutorial independence. The question will resolve as Yes if a credible source reports that senior DOJ officials did any of the following: Directed career DOJ employees to not pursue a case that was referred by a law enforcement agency (FBI, DEA, DHS), a whistleblower complaint or public report, or a congressional or inspector general referral. Directed career DOJ employees to deprioritize a case related to the president’s allies over others or to slow down the investigative or prosecution process. Directed career DOJ employees to stop



investigating or not file charges in a case that would normally have been pursued and/or have had charges filed according to career DOJ employees (as reported by credible sources). A case refers to any formal legal matter involving investigation, prosecution, litigation, or enforcement action initiated or overseen by the Department of Justice. Members of the president's family are defined as their current or former spouse, children, their children's spouses, and their grandchildren. For the purposes of this question, a high-profile supporter or ally of the sitting president is defined as an individual that has acted as an official surrogate for the president's campaign, spoken at campaign rallies for the president, spoken at administration events with the president, served in the president's administration in a Cabinet-appointed position, or made national news when endorsing the president.

**Background Info** The Department of Justice (DOJ) is expected to operate with prosecutorial independence, guided by the Justice Manual, federal regulations (e.g., special-counsel rules), and longstanding norms that insulate case decisions from political direction. Credible allegations of top-down interference have been rare but not unprecedented. The clearest precedent is the 1973 "Saturday Night Massacre," when President Nixon ordered the firing of the Watergate special prosecutor pursuing him, prompting the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General to resign rather than carry it out. Similar conduct would constitute a deviation from "normal procedure" as used here. ()

Will both Kalshi and Polymarket assign >20% odds to the major-party nomination of an already twice-elected former U.S. president before 2027? Show Additional Information

**Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, before 2027, the probability on both Polymarket and Kalshi of an already twice-elected former president becoming the Republican or Democratic presidential nominee in the next presidential election exceeds 20% for at least 24 consecutive hours. **Fine Print** To count for resolution, the



relevant market must have been open for at least 7 consecutive days and have a total trading volume of at least \$20,000. The two markets need not exceed the 20% threshold simultaneously as long as both do so for 24 hours before 2027. If one of Kalshi or Polymarket ceases operations, resolution will rely on the one that continues to operate. If both cease operations, it will rely on the corresponding Betfair Exchange market.

**Background Info** Kalshi and Polymarket are among the largest prediction markets and allow traders to bet on political outcomes, generating real-time probabilities of events. The U.S. Constitution’s 22nd Amendment bars any individual from being elected president more than twice. Despite this, Donald Trump has at times floated the idea of serving more than two terms, while on other occasions ruling it out. ()

Will the DOJ decline to act on a criminal contempt referral of a current or former executive official who served under the sitting president before 2027? Show Additional Information

**Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, before 2027, both of the following take place, according to credible sources: (1) the U.S. House of Representatives or Senate makes a formal criminal contempt referral to the Department of Justice (DOJ) concerning an administration official; and (2) the DOJ declines to act on the referral.

**Fine Print** An administration official is defined as any individual who is formally appointed to serve in the executive branch during any administration in which the sitting president is in office, including Cabinet members, senior White House staff, agency heads, and confirmed or acting appointees. “Declines to act” means that the DOJ: · Does not initiate an investigation, and · Takes no prosecutorial action (i.e., no indictment, charging document, or criminal filing) within 180 days of receiving the referral.

**Background Info** When Congress votes to hold a current or former executive-branch official in contempt and makes a criminal referral to DOJ (under 2 U.S.C. §§ 192, 194), DOJ has prosecutorial discretion. For example, in 2019, after the House held



Attorney General William Barr and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross in contempt over the census citizenship question, DOJ explicitly declined to pursue criminal contempt charges. ()

Will a SCOTUS decision weakening donor disclosure rules for political spending or electioneering communications be good law before 2027? Show Additional Information

**Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, at any point before 2027, a decision by the Supreme Court of the United States that weakens or eliminates federal or state disclosure requirements related to independent political expenditures or electioneering communications, relative to the status quo on December 31, 2024, is good law. A decision of the Supreme Court will be considered to weaken or strike down disclosure rules if it: · Declares such a rule unconstitutional, or · Issues a ruling that invalidates, narrows, or reduces the scope of existing donor disclosure requirements such that fewer donors or expenditures are required to be disclosed than under prior law (for instance, raising the thresholds to disclose, exempting categories of donations or donors from disclosure, etc.). **Fine Print** According to the FEC, an independent political expenditure is “an expenditure for a communication that expressly advocates the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate and which is not made in coordination with any candidate or their campaign or political party.” Definitions and laws by state are here. An electioneering communication is “any communication through broadcast media, cable, radio, internet, telephone, mailing, billboard or print that refers to a candidate or ballot measure and that is made within a specific period before a primary, general or special election.” Definitions and laws by state are here. Universal rules or those that selectively apply to specific groups qualify. Decisions limiting federal or state-specific disclosure laws qualify. Examples of decisions that would resolve to Yes include, but are not limited to, the following: · A Supreme Court decision holding that a federal law requiring disclosure of donors to groups engaged in independent



expenditures is unconstitutional. · A decision striking down a state's requirement that groups funding electioneering communications disclose donors above a certain threshold. · A ruling exempting certain categories of nonprofit organizations from donor disclosure for independent expenditures. **Background Info** In *Citizens United v. FEC* (2010), the Court struck down limits on corporate and union spending but upheld disclosure requirements. Since then, disclosure laws have remained a campaign-finance provision consistently endorsed by the Court, even as it has weakened contribution and spending limits. ()

Will DOJ or FTC approve a \$5 billion merger or acquisition after a related \$1 million expenditure to a group or cryptocurrency linked to the president before 2027? Show Additional Information **Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, before 2027, both of the following occur: · A merger or acquisition valued at \$5 billion or more is approved by the Department of Justice or the Federal Trade Commission; and · A donation or expenditure worth \$1 million or more is made by an entity involved in the merger within 180 calendar days prior to the approval, where the recipient is an organization, PAC, super PAC, nonprofit, or cryptocurrency linked to the sitting president. **Fine Print** The value of the merger or acquisition will be determined by public SEC filings, merger agreements, or press releases. The donation must be made by a direct participant in the merger or acquisition, a corporate parent or subsidiary, a corporate PAC or foundation, or a member of the firm's C-suite executive leadership team or board of directors. An organization linked to the president is defined as a campaign organization of the president, presidential library, super PAC, or personal or family business. A cryptocurrency linked to the president is defined as a cryptocurrency or related digital assets (e.g., NFTs, crypto platforms) or the legal entity that issues, manages, or markets them in which the president or a family member of the president has an ownership interest, control right, or ongoing financial relationship. Purchasing \$1



million worth of the relevant cryptocurrency would fulfill the expenditure criterion. Multiple transactions from the same source may be aggregated in calculating the relevant donation or expenditure total for the purposes of resolution. Members of the president's family are defined as their current or former spouses, their children, their children's spouses, and their grandchildren.

**Background Info** Large corporate mergers in the United States—particularly those valued at \$5 billion or more—must undergo antitrust review by either the Department of Justice (DOJ) Antitrust Division or the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) under the Hart–Scott–Rodino Act. Approval decisions hinge on competitive effects, but high-stakes deals can intersect with political and regulatory scrutiny. Direct quid pro quo arrangements (regulatory approval following large donations) would raise significant legal risks under bribery and corruption statutes, but the rules around independent expenditures and donations to presidentially affiliated nonprofits or super PACs are looser as long as there is no direct coordination. ()

Will a U.S. cabinet agency award a \$100m benefit after a related \$1m expenditure to a group or cryptocurrency linked to the president before 2027? Show Additional Information

**Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if both of the following occur: · A cabinet agency takes an action (e.g., issues a rule, awards a contract or grant, grants a tariff waiver) that confers a firm-specific benefit of \$100 million or more before 2027; and · A donation or expenditure worth \$1 million or more is made by an entity involved in the action within 180 calendar days before the action date where the recipient is an organization, PAC, super PAC, nonprofit, or cryptocurrency linked to the sitting president.

**Fine Print** “Firm-specific” means the firm gains a material advantage that is not equally available to most of the other firms in the relevant market. The donation must be made by a firm directly receiving the benefit, a corporate parent or subsidiary, a corporate PAC or foundation, or a member of the firm's C-suite executive leadership team or board of



directors. A benefit must be publicly documented as a:

- Contract award
- Grant or subsidy
- Tariff waiver or import exemption
- Other agency rule or order that confers a specific and material financial advantage to the entity

An organization linked to the president is defined as a campaign organization of the president, presidential library, super PAC, or personal or family business. A cryptocurrency linked to the president is defined as a cryptocurrency or related digital assets (e.g., NFTs, crypto platforms) or the legal entity that issues, manages, or markets them in which the president or a family member of the president has an ownership interest, control right, or ongoing financial relationship. Purchasing \$1 million worth of the relevant cryptocurrency would fulfill the expenditure criterion. Multiple donations from the same source may be aggregated in calculating the relevant donation or expenditure total for the purposes of resolution.

**Background Info** Large federal benefits in the United States—particularly those valued at \$100 million or more—can be awarded by cabinet agencies through contracts, grants, tariff waivers, or similar firm-specific actions. Decisions are formally based on statutory or regulatory criteria, but high-value awards can intersect with political and administrative discretion. Direct quid pro quo arrangements (agency benefits following large donations) would raise significant legal risks under bribery and corruption statutes, but the rules around independent expenditures and donations to presidentially affiliated nonprofits or super PACs are looser as long as there is no direct coordination. ( )

Will the Senate pass a reconciliation bill with no CBO input on Byrd Rule compliance before 2027? Show Additional Information

**Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, before 2027, the Senate passes at least one bill through reconciliation without its Byrd Rule eligibility being determined with input by published Congressional Budget Office (CBO) formal budgetary analysis (e.g., cost estimates, revenue projections, etc.).

**Fine Print** A reconciliation bill is one that is passed through the process of budget



reconciliation created by the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. To “determine with input,” the CBO must provide or publish formal estimates, cost projections, or budget impact analysis for one or more components of the reconciliation bill and this information is reviewed, cited, or presented to the Senate Parliamentarian, Senate Budget Committee, or the Senate as a whole before or during the Byrd Rule enforcement process.

**Background Info** Budget reconciliation is a special process created by the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 that allows certain tax and spending legislation to pass the Senate with a simple majority and limited debate (i.e., rather than being subject to a filibuster, which requires a three-fifths majority to end for most legislation). The Byrd Rule restricts provisions in reconciliation bills to those with direct budgetary impact. In practice, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) provides formal cost estimates and budget projections that the Parliamentarian, Budget Committee, and floor managers use to assess Byrd Rule compliance. Passing a reconciliation bill without CBO input on budgetary effects would be a significant break from established procedure. ()

Will the U.S. presidential administration alter or delay the public release of a major federal economic indicator before 2027? Show Additional Information **Resolution Criteria**

This question will resolve as Yes if, before 2027, the executive branch of the U.S. government (including the White House, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Management and Budget, Treasury, or other executive agencies) changes either the scheduled or typical release date or (without standard review procedures) the calculation methodology for one of these major economic indicators: · Gross Domestic Product · Personal Consumption Expenditures Index · Consumer Price Index · Non-farm payroll jobs · Initial jobless claims · Unemployment rate

**Fine Print** Delays of less than a day or alterations due solely to technical errors or factors reasonably beyond the control of the agency (e.g., natural disasters) affecting



federal operations do not count. Alterations to methodology count if and only if they:

- Are initiated or approved by political appointees, and
- Are implemented without following at least two of the following three standard review procedures:
  - A public comment period of at least 30 days;
  - Review by a technical advisory committee or methodological review board, such as those maintained by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), or Census Bureau;
  - Inter-agency coordination, including circulation of draft revisions to relevant federal statistical offices, or other agencies materially impacted by the change.

**Background Info** Major federal economic indicators are produced by statistical agencies like the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) on fixed schedules and under strict professional standards. By law and tradition, these agencies historically operate with a high degree of independence to protect their credibility and prevent political manipulation. However, there have been pressures on statistical independence: the Trump administration took an unprecedented step in 2025 by firing the BLS Commissioner just hours after a weak jobs report. Critics expressed alarm about the removal, which they alleged constituted politically motivated pressure on an independent agency. These moves underscore growing concerns over the politicization of economic reporting, which could manifest through delays and/or altering of economic public indicators. ()

Will three or more competitive Senate or governor races hold no general election debates? Show Additional Information

**Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if three or more competitive Senate or governor races hold no live general election debates prior to Election Day in the corresponding elections. A race is defined as competitive if there is a candidate nominated by both the Democratic and Republican parties, and the consensus forecast on the website 270towin has the race marked as a “Lean,” “Tilt,” or “Toss-Up” on Labor Day or the prior snapshot closest to it as shown in



270twin's archived forecasts or recorded by the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine.

**Fine Print** If the 270twin site is not updated or if any race is missing a forecast, the question will resolve by aggregating forecasts from The Cook Political Report, Sabato's Crystal Ball, and Inside Elections or whichever of these websites are still updated. "Safe" and "Solid" are taken as equivalent ratings and "Leans" and "Tilts" are equivalent ratings across the different forecasting sites. The consensus rating is defined as the modal rating for each race. A debate is defined as a structured and moderated event specifically billed as a general election debate. Alternative events in place of a debate, such as dueling town hall interviews, will not count. A live debate means both candidates must be debating live, responding to each other in real time. Responses to pre-recorded video or statements would not count. However, a debate can be conducted either in person or virtually. A debate need not complete its scheduled duration. It is sufficient if the debate starts with both candidates participating live.

**Background Info** General-election debates in competitive statewide races are common, but some campaigns have chosen to skip debates or threatened to do so. A high-profile recent example was the 2022 Arizona gubernatorial race, where Republican nominee Kari Lake and Democratic nominee Katie Hobbs never debated; Hobbs refused to share a stage with Lake and instead participated in a solo interview. Similar controversies arose in other high-profile contests. For example, in Pennsylvania's 2022 Senate race, Mehmet Oz and John Fetterman held just one debate in late October after protracted negotiations. In Georgia's 2022 Senate race, Herschel Walker initially threatened to skip debates and only agreed to one after pressure. ()

Will no debates be held between the actual or presumptive presidential nominees of the two major parties before 2029? Show Additional Information **Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, before 2029, no live general-election debates between the actual or the presumptive presidential nominees of the Democratic Party and the



Republican Party are held before Election Day. This question will resolve as No if a debate takes place between either the actual or the presumptive nominees of their party at the time of the debate, regardless of whether a nominee is later replaced. **Fine Print** A "presumptive nominee" refers to a candidate who has clinched the nomination mathematically (e.g., by securing a majority of pledged delegates or winning enough state primaries) or is considered by credible sources to be the party's de facto nominee without serious contest. A debate is defined as a structured and moderated event specifically billed as a presidential debate. Alternative events in place of a debate, such as dueling town hall interviews, will not count. A live debate means both candidates must be debating live, responding to each other in real time. Responses to pre-recorded video or statements would not count. However, a debate can be conducted either in person or virtually. A debate need not complete its scheduled duration. It is sufficient if the debate starts with both candidates participating live.

**Background Info** Since 1976, every U.S. presidential general election has featured at least one head-to-head debate between the nominees of the two major parties. The debates, organized by the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) since 1988, are widely regarded as central campaign events.

The tradition has shown signs of strain, however, most recently in 2024 when both major candidates refused to participate in the debates proposed by the CPD. President Trump ultimately took part in his first scheduled debate with President Biden and then debated Vice President Kamala Harris on the date he had previously agreed to debate Biden for a second time. ( )

In the next U.S. presidential election, will any state fail to submit a slate of electoral votes to Congress by the safe harbor deadline? Show

Additional Information **Resolution Criteria**

This question will resolve as Yes if a state does not submit a Certificate of Votes at all by the safe harbor deadline after the next U.S. presidential election. **Fine Print** If a state submits its electoral votes after the safe



harbor deadline, it will be treated as if the state did not submit a slate of electoral votes. In such a case, the question will resolve as Yes. For the purposes of this question, the safe harbor deadline is the date specified in the Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Act, or any superseding federal law in effect at the time of the deadline. The electoral votes must be sent by the responsible state officer as determined by the Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Act and state law (usually, the governor). The 2021-2022 and 2025-2026 subquestions have been added and subsequently annulled for technical reasons related to the structure of the U.S. Democracy Threat Index. **Background Info** The “safe harbor” provision originated in the Electoral Count Act of 1887 (ECA), which set a deadline for states to resolve disputes and finalize their electors six days before the Electoral College meets. Finalizing electors by this deadline ensured that Congress would treat the state’s electors as conclusive. Under this framework, only one state has clearly missed the safe harbor deadline: Hawaii in 1960, when a recount shifted the outcome after the deadline, and Congress ultimately accepted the late-certified electors. In December 2022, Congress passed the Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Act (ECRPTA), which clarified and tightened parts of the ECA. The law changed the date on which electors must meet to the first Tuesday after the second Wednesday in December, shifting the safe-harbor deadline to six days prior. The law also reaffirmed that the governor (or another officer designated under state law before Election Day) is responsible for certifying the slate of electors. To date, no state has missed the safe harbor deadline under this new law. ()

Will the losing major-party candidate in the next U.S. presidential elections refuse to concede defeat before electors meet? Show Additional Information **Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if the defeated presidential candidate of either the Democratic or the Republican Party in the next presidential election does not publicly



concede defeat to their opponent before electors meet in each state. **Fine Print** Refusal to publicly concede defeat is defined as either (1) a runner-up failing to announce or disseminate a statement of defeat or (2) making a statement that explicitly refuses to acknowledge the opponent's victory following the call by the Associated Press (AP). To code ambiguous concession statements, we will refer to the concessions codebook developed by Bright Line Watch. The losing major-party candidate is defined as the runner-up in the presidential general election as called by the AP. If the AP does not determine a winner due to no candidate receiving a majority of Electoral College votes, then the losing candidate will be the major-party candidate who is not selected by Congress as the president-elect. If such a decision is not made by the end of the two-year period, then the corresponding subquestion will be annulled. The 2021-2022 and 2025-2026 subquestions have been added and subsequently annulled for technical reasons related to the structure of the U.S. Democracy Threat Index.

**Background Info** Concession by losing presidential candidates is a longstanding norm in the United States. Even in highly contentious and close elections, major-party presidential candidates have historically publicly conceded within hours or days of a consensus media call projecting the winner. While concessions are not legally required, they are seen as an important affirmation of the legitimacy of democratic elections by political scientists. In 2020, Donald Trump became the first losing major-party candidate in the modern era to refuse to concede before electors met. ()

Will U.S. Congress pass new limits on early voting, absentee voting, or voter registration in 2027-2028? (Note: Does not include 2025-2026.) Show Additional Information

**Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, in the 2027-2028 period, credible sources report that at least one chamber of the United States Congress (House of Representatives or Senate) has approved legislation that creates or changes rules, limits, or requirements for early voting,



absentee voting, or voter registration in federal elections in a manner that directly reduces access or makes it more difficult for a group of eligible voters to vote. **Fine Print** The legislation does not need to become law (i.e., it does not require passage by both chambers or the president's signature) for a subquestion to resolve as Yes. Amendments to existing laws that add restrictions or requirements will qualify if they meet the above criteria. Legislation that relaxes some rules and makes others more strict will qualify. **Background Info** Congress has historically left regulating early voting, absentee voting, and voter registration to the states. When it has acted, federal legislation has typically expanded access or standardized procedures, such as the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 ("Motor Voter"), the Help America Vote Act of 2002, and the MOVE Act of 2009. By contrast, restrictions on voting access have mostly been implemented at the state level. In 2025, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act, which would require documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote in federal elections. Although the bill has not become law, its passage in one chamber means that, under the resolution criteria, the subquestion for 2025 resolves as Yes. ()

Will two or more U.S. state or federal judges or legislators be victims of murder or attempted murder by non-state actors in 2027-2028? (Note: Does not include 2025-2026.)  
Show Additional Information **Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, in the 2027-2028 period, two or more individuals serving as either U.S. federal or state judges or U.S. federal or state legislators are victims of murder or the intended victims of attempted murders by non-state actors. **Fine Print** For the purposes of this question, a non-state actor is any individual or group not acting on behalf of the government, including private citizens, domestic extremists, terrorists, or other unaffiliated persons. The act must be causally attributable to a non-state actor and be intentional as reported by credible sources. Accidental deaths, deaths due to natural causes, and violence by state actors acting in



an official capacity (e.g., law enforcement, foreign governments) do not count, nor does violence deemed unrelated to the victim's position, role, or political stances by the law enforcement agencies or prosecutors responsible for the case. The target must be a sitting judge or legislator at the time of death (not a retired or former official). **Background Info** Violence against U.S. judges and legislators is rare in the United States, but there have been a number of incidents in recent years. In 2025, two Minnesota state legislators were the victims of a targeted attack in which one, Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman, was fatally shot, and another, State Senator John Hoffman, was critically injured by the same shooter. ()

Will the U.S. federal government open formal investigations of at least 5 top-50 universities in 2027-2028? (Note: Does not include 2025-2026.) Show Additional Information

**Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, in the 2027-2028 period, the U.S. federal government initiates formal investigations into 5 or more universities that are ranked among the top 50 national universities in the most recent U.S. News & World Report rankings available at the time of the investigation. **Fine Print** A formal investigation is defined as an official inquiry launched by a federal agency or department (e.g., the Department of Education, Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, or Internal Revenue Service) that is announced publicly or confirmed through reporting or documentation in which the university is notified of its subject status in an enforcement, civil, or criminal matter. Investigations must be directed at the university itself — not solely at individual faculty, students, or employees — but can address institutional-level wrongdoing or compliance failures relating to the conduct of individuals. Routine compliance checks, funding audits, or grant reporting reviews do not count unless explicitly designated as investigations into potential misconduct or legal violation. If a university is tied for a ranking (e.g., tied for 50th), it still qualifies.

**Background Info** The U.S. federal



government has occasionally investigated universities for civil rights, admissions, and financial compliance issues, though large waves of formal inquiries into top-ranked schools are unusual. In 2025, the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights launched Title VI investigations into dozens of universities, including many of the most prestigious in the country, over alleged racial discrimination and antisemitism. Columbia University, the University of California system, and George Mason University have also faced formal federal probes by the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services. ()

Will at least 10 individuals affiliated with the U.S. president receive a presidential pardon or commutation in 2027-2028? (Note: Does not include 2025-2026.) Show Additional Information **Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, in the period of 2027-2028, ten or more individuals who are current or former elected officials in the president's party, political appointees in the past or present presidential administrations of the sitting president, employees of any of the sitting president's campaigns, members of the president's family, or employees of the president receive pardons or commutations in the corresponding half of the president's term. For example, the 2025-2026 subquestion covers the period January 20, 2025, 12:00 ET - December 31, 2026 and the 2027-2028 subquestion covers the period January 1, 2027 - January 20, 2029, 12:00 ET. **Fine Print** A campaign employee is understood as a staff member, advisor, or volunteer for any of the president's official presidential campaigns. Members of the president's family are defined as their current or former spouses, their children, their children's spouses, and their grandchildren. Employees of the president are understood as any past or present employees of businesses they lead or own (including subsidiary companies). This category includes individuals at all levels of employment, from executive leadership to part-time or seasonal staff. Posthumous pardons, self-pardons, and pardons of corporations are excluded. **Background Info** The U.S. president has broad constitutional



authority to grant pardons and commutations for federal offenses (Article II, Section 2). Historically, this power has been used both routinely (for low-level offenses or to correct injustices) and controversially (for political allies and high-profile associates). Modern presidents have issued pardons to figures closely tied to them. President Bill Clinton pardoned his half-brother Roger Clinton and donor Marc Rich. President George H.W. Bush pardoned six officials involved in the Iran-Contra affair. President Donald Trump has pardoned or commuted the sentences of numerous allies and affiliates, including Michael Flynn, Paul Manafort, Roger Stone, Charles Kushner, and Steve Bannon. ()

Will senior DOJ leaders override normal procedures to open or accelerate a case against a high-profile presidential opponent or critic before 2027? Show Additional Information **Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if credible sources show that, before 2027, · a case was opened or fast-tracked against a high-profile opponent or critic of the president, **or** · DOJ officials pursued a case against them that would otherwise have been abandoned, in a manner that deviates from normal DOJ procedure. **Fine Print** Senior DOJ leaders are defined as the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, Associate Attorney General, the heads of the Criminal Division and National Security Division, as well as any appointed Special Counsel. DOJ procedures are governed by the U.S. Attorneys' Manual (now called the Justice Manual), federal regulations, internal departmental policies, and established norms of prosecutorial independence. This question will resolve as Yes if a credible source reports that senior DOJ officials did any of the following: · Directed career DOJ employees to pursue a case that was created or initiated without reference to a referral from a law enforcement agency (FBI, DEA, DHS), a whistleblower complaint or public report, or a congressional or inspector general referral. · Directed career DOJ employees to prioritize a case related to a presidential opponent or critic over others or to speed up the investigative or prosecution process. ·



Directed career DOJ employees to start investigating or file charges in a case that would normally not have been pursued and/or had charges filed. A case refers to any formal legal matter involving investigation, prosecution, litigation, or enforcement action initiated or overseen by the Department of Justice. A high-profile opponent or critic of the president is someone who has made national news by expressing public disagreement with the president (including as an administration official), run against the president for office, threatened to or has sued the president, taken part in a legal investigation or impeachment of the president, or was fired or removed from office by the president. This question will resolve as Yes only if credible sources suggest the individual's status as a high-profile presidential opponent or critic at least partially influenced their treatment by DOJ.

**Background Info** The Department of Justice (DOJ) is expected to operate with prosecutorial independence, guided by the Justice Manual, federal regulations (e.g., special-counsel rules), and longstanding norms that insulate case decisions from political direction. Credible allegations of top-down interference have been rare but not unprecedented. ()

Will the sitting U.S. president's net worth reach  $\geq 4x$  its value before they were elected at any point before 2027? Show Additional Information

**Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, before 2027, the sitting president's net worth equals or exceeds 4 times its earliest value in the year before they take office.

**Fine Print** This question will use the earliest archived estimate of the president's net worth from the year before they took office. If a president is elected for two, non-consecutive terms, the year before the second term will be used. The primary source to resolve this question will be Forbes. Net worth is calculated using Forbes' real-time net worth calculator. As reported by Forbes, Trump's net worth was \$2.6 billion on January 12, 2024. Since Forbes does not provide historical data, the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine will be used to determine if/when Trump crossed or equaled the \$10.4



billion threshold. If data from Forbes are not available, we will instead use estimates from the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. If neither are available or lack an updated estimate for the relevant president, the question will resolve according to required financial disclosures filed by candidates for and holders of federal office and other credible sources.

**Background Info** For Donald Trump, Forbes estimated his net worth at \$2.6 billion on January 12, 2024. The Forbes 400 estimates of Trump's net worth (released each fall) were \$4.3 billion in 2024 and \$7.3 billion in 2025.

There is no credible record of a U.S. president's personal wealth quadrupling during their presidency in history, but Trump's holdings in Trump Media & Technology Group (DJT) may provide a vehicle for unprecedented wealth accumulation. ( )

Will the U.S. President or another executive branch official direct federal law enforcement to not enforce a federal court order before 2027? Show Additional Information

**Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if, before 2027, credible sources report that the President or another senior official in the executive branch issued a directive instructing the U.S. Marshals Service or another federal law enforcement agency to refuse to enforce a federal court order. **Fine**

**Print** A directive is defined as any verbal or written instruction. The directive must be documented in official records (e.g., executive orders, internal memos) or reported by multiple reputable sources based on direct evidence (such as transcripts, contemporaneous notes, or corroborated testimony). "Refuse to enforce" means the directive instructs the agency to intentionally decline or delay carrying out a federal court order that requires a specific, affirmative action by federal law enforcement, such as making an arrest, executing a warrant, or seizing property. If a stay is issued, refusal to enforce during that period would not trigger a

Yes resolution. **Background Info** The U.S. Marshals Service and other federal law enforcement agencies are normally expected to enforce federal court orders as part of the constitutional system of checks and balances.



Directives from the president or senior executive branch officials to refuse enforcement would represent a profound break with long-standing norms. Historically, direct presidential or executive instructions to ignore federal court orders are extremely rare.

The most famous antecedent is President Andrew Jackson's defiance of the Supreme Court in *Worcester v. Georgia* (1832), though historians debate whether he literally refused enforcement. In March 2025, a federal judge ordered that deportation flights carrying individuals subject to a withholding order be turned back if already airborne, but the flights proceeded anyway. Internal DOJ communications also revealed that a presidential judicial nominee encouraged colleagues to ignore these court orders. However, this incident does not resolve the 2025–2026 subquestion, as the directive was not directed to law enforcement or U.S. marshals. ()

Will the U.S. House maps for the 2025–2026 elections give any major party an efficiency-gap advantage of  $\geq 20$  seats nationwide? Show Additional Information **Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as Yes if U.S. House maps used in the U.S. general elections taking place in the 2025–2026 period grant either Republicans or Democrats an efficiency-gap partisan advantage of **20 or more seats** according to the Michigan State University Partisan Advantage Tracker, as of January 1, 2027. **Fine Print** The efficiency-gap advantage refers to the net number of additional seats a major party is projected to win, relative to a neutral map, as determined by MSU's simulation-based methodology using wasted-vote calculations. The efficiency-gap advantage need not arise from redistricting; any source of asymmetry in seat allocation (i.e., natural geographic boundaries or preexisting maps) will suffice. If the Michigan State University Partisan Advantage Tracker has not published an updated estimate as of January 1, the question will resolve based on an alternative estimate from a credible source following the standard methodology. The estimate must use the most recent election data available at the precinct



level for all fifty states. For instance, the Michigan State University Partisan Advantage Tracker uses 2016–2020 data because not all states have 2024 precinct-level data available.

If such an estimate is not available from any source, it will be calculated independently or an estimate using mixed data from different elections will be used. **Background Info** The efficiency gap measures how many seats a party gains from map asymmetries by comparing “wasted votes” (excess votes in wins + all votes in losses) for each party; larger gaps mean one party converts votes to seats more efficiently. Michigan State University’s Partisan Advantage Tracker applies a simulation-based method using recent statewide vote data to estimate each state’s and the nationwide seat advantage under the current House maps. As of the writing of this question, the efficiency-gap advantage for Republicans nationwide is 10.77 seats. ( )

Will an active duty U.S. senior military leader join an election campaign or accept a civilian executive position before 2027? Show Additional Information **Resolution Criteria**

This question will resolve as Yes if, before 2027, one or more U.S. flag/general officers or senior military leaders formally participate as a campaign official, advisor, or candidate in a U.S. federal, state, or local election campaign, or accept a civilian executive branch position while serving in the military. **Fine Print** A general or flag officer is an officer of the U.S. Armed Forces holding a rank of O-7 or above (Brigadier General in the Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Space Force, or equivalently Rear Admiral (lower half) in the Navy and Coast Guard). A senior military leader is the highest-ranking enlisted member of each part of the military (e.g., Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Sergeant Major of the Army (SMA), etc.). Civilian executive branch positions include cabinet members, agency heads, formal advisors, or other senior appointed officials.

For the purposes of this question, National Security Advisor does not count as a civilian executive branch position. The individual must accept the position while still on active duty or



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less than six months after separating/retiring from active duty. Officers in reserve status or who serve in the National Guard but are not on active duty do not count. Only paid or formal roles on campaigns count; volunteer roles do not. Public endorsements or informal campaigning do not count. General party roles or advocacy group roles do not count. Acting or interim positions in the executive branch do count. **Background Info** U.S. military rules strongly restrict partisan activity by active-duty personnel. DoD Directive 1344.10 bars active-duty members from working for campaigns (e.g., serving as a campaign official or advisor), and 10 U.S.C. § 973(b) generally prohibits active-duty officers from holding a civil office in the federal government. ()

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End of Block: Metaculus Future scenarios

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Start of Block: BLW Future scenario

Q994 Timing  
First Click (1)  
Last Click (2)  
Page Submit (3)  
Click Count (4)



fs\_blw\_2025 For the following question, we ask you to estimate the value of an outcome on a continuous scale at a specified point in time.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

How will Bright Line Watch experts rate American democracy on a 0–100 scale at the end of 2025? Show Additional Information

**Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as the mean score that experts assign to the performance of U.S. democracy on a 0–100 scale, as measured in the relevant Bright Line Watch expert survey conducted closest to December 31 of the year in question. For example, if BLW conducted surveys in November 2025 and March 2026, the November survey would be used to resolve the 2025 question. However, if the surveys were conducted in November 2025 and January 2026, the latter would be used. **Fine Print** These surveys must take place within 90 days of the end of a given year to be valid. If no such surveys are conducted, the question for that year will be annulled. **Background Info** Bright Line Watch (BLW) is an academic initiative that regularly surveys both political science experts and the American public on the state of U.S. democracy. Since 2017, BLW has conducted recurring surveys that ask respondents to provide an overall 0–100 rating of democratic performance. These ratings varied between 60 and 70 on the 0–100 scale from 2017–2024 before declining to 55 in February 2025 and 53 in April 2025. ()



fs\_blw\_2026 For the following question, we ask you to estimate the value of an outcome on a continuous scale at a specified point in time.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

How will Bright Line Watch experts rate American democracy on a 0–100 scale at the end of 2026? Show Additional Information

**Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as the mean score that experts assign to the performance of U.S. democracy on a 0–100 scale, as measured in the relevant Bright Line Watch expert survey conducted closest to December 31 of the year in question. For example, if BLW conducted surveys in November 2025 and March 2026, the November survey would be used to resolve the 2025 question. However, if the surveys were conducted in November 2025 and January 2026, the latter would be used. **Fine Print** These surveys must take place within 90 days of the end of a given year to be valid. If no such surveys are conducted, the question for that year will be annulled. **Background Info** Bright Line Watch (BLW) is an academic initiative that regularly surveys both political science experts and the American public on the state of U.S. democracy. Since 2017, BLW has conducted recurring surveys that ask respondents to provide an overall 0–100 rating of democratic performance. These ratings varied between 60 and 70 on the 0–100 scale from 2017–2024 before declining to 55 in February 2025 and 53 in April 2025. ()



fs\_blw\_2027 For the following question, we ask you to estimate the value of an outcome on a continuous scale at a specified point in time.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

How will Bright Line Watch experts rate American democracy on a 0–100 scale at the end of 2027? Show Additional Information

**Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as the mean score that experts assign to the performance of U.S. democracy on a 0–100 scale, as measured in the relevant Bright Line Watch expert survey conducted closest to December 31 of the year in question. For example, if BLW conducted surveys in November 2025 and March 2026, the November survey would be used to resolve the 2025 question. However, if the surveys were conducted in November 2025 and January 2026, the latter would be used. **Fine Print** These surveys must take place within 90 days of the end of a given year to be valid. If no such surveys are conducted, the question for that year will be annulled. **Background Info** Bright Line Watch (BLW) is an academic initiative that regularly surveys both political science experts and the American public on the state of U.S. democracy. Since 2017, BLW has conducted recurring surveys that ask respondents to provide an overall 0–100 rating of democratic performance. These ratings varied between 60 and 70 on the 0–100 scale from 2017–2024 before declining to 55 in February 2025 and 53 in April 2025. ()



fs\_blw\_2028 For the following question, we ask you to estimate the value of an outcome on a continuous scale at a specified point in time.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

How will Bright Line Watch experts rate American democracy on a 0–100 scale at the end of 2028? Show Additional Information

**Resolution Criteria** This question will resolve as the mean score that experts assign to the performance of U.S. democracy on a 0–100 scale, as measured in the relevant Bright Line Watch expert survey conducted closest to December 31 of the year in question. For example, if BLW conducted surveys in November 2025 and March 2026, the November survey would be used to resolve the 2025 question. However, if the surveys were conducted in November 2025 and January 2026, the latter would be used. **Fine Print** These surveys must take place within 90 days of the end of a given year to be valid. If no such surveys are conducted, the question for that year will be annulled. **Background Info** Bright Line Watch (BLW) is an academic initiative that regularly surveys both political science experts and the American public on the state of U.S. democracy. Since 2017, BLW has conducted recurring surveys that ask respondents to provide an overall 0–100 rating of democratic performance. These ratings varied between 60 and 70 on the 0–100 scale from 2017–2024 before declining to 55 in February 2025 and 53 in April 2025. ( )



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End of Block: BLW Future scenario

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Start of Block: Future threat / benefit intro

Q1031 In this section of the survey, we ask you to assess a series of events that may materialize in the future. What impact (if any) would each have on American democracy?

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End of Block: Future threat / benefit intro

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Start of Block: future threats to democracy - humphrey's executor

Q1253 Timing  
First Click (1)  
Last Click (2)  
Page Submit (3)  
Click Count (4)

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f\_threat\_bin\_humphry Supreme Court overturns Humphrey's Executor precedent, ruling that presidents can fire members of independent agencies (FTC, SEC, FCC, NLRB, etc.) at will.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

End of Block: future threats to democracy - humphrey's executor

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Start of Block: future threats to democracy - VRA

Q1334 Timing  
First Click (1)  
Last Click (2)  
Page Submit (3)  
Click Count (4)

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f\_threat\_bin\_VRA Supreme Court rules in Louisiana v. Callais that states cannot consider race when drawing congressional districts even to comply with the Voting Rights Act.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

End of Block: future threats to democracy - VRA

---

Start of Block: future threats to democracy - mail in ballots

Q1336 Timing  
First Click (1)  
Last Click (2)  
Page Submit (3)  
Click Count (4)

---

f\_threat\_bin\_mail\_in Supreme Court rules that states cannot count mail-in ballots received after Election Day, invalidating such laws in 36+ states.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

End of Block: future threats to democracy - mail in ballots

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Start of Block: future threats to democracy - tariffs

Q1338 Timing  
First Click (1)  
Last Click (2)  
Page Submit (3)  
Click Count (4)

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f\_threat\_bin\_tariffs Supreme Court rules that presidents cannot use emergency powers to impose tariffs without explicit congressional authorization.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

End of Block: future threats to democracy - tariffs

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Start of Block: future threats to democracy - withholds federal funds

Q1340 Timing  
First Click (1)  
Last Click (2)  
Page Submit (3)  
Click Count (4)

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f\_threat\_bin\_fedfund The Trump administration withholds federal funds from states that do not change their House district maps to advantage Republicans.

- Benefit to American democracy (1)
- Will not affect American democracy (2)
- Threat to American democracy (3)

End of Block: future threats to democracy - withholds federal funds

---

Start of Block: Section 7b: Future threats to democracy

Q866 Timing  
First Click (1)  
Last Click (2)  
Page Submit (3)  
Click Count (4)

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*Display this question:*

*If Supreme Court overturns Humphrey's Executor precedent, ruling that presidents can fire members of... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Or Supreme Court rules in Louisiana v. Callais that states cannot consider race when drawing congress... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Or Supreme Court rules that states cannot count mail-in ballots received after Election Day, invalid... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Or Supreme Court rules that presidents cannot use emergency powers to impose tariffs without explici... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Or The Trump administration withholds federal funds from states that do not change their House distr... = Benefit to American democracy*

f\_benefits You indicated that the following are benefits to American democracy. We would now like you to rate the degree to which they are a benefit to democracy.

*Display this choice:*  
*If Supreme Court overturns Humphrey's Executor precedent, ruling that presidents can fire members of... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Display this choice:*  
*If Supreme Court rules in Louisiana v. Callais that states cannot consider race when drawing congress... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Display this choice:*  
*If Supreme Court rules that states cannot count mail-in ballots received after Election Day, invalid... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Display this choice:*  
*If Supreme Court rules that presidents cannot use emergency powers to impose tariffs without explici... = Benefit to American democracy*

*Display this choice:*  
*If The Trump administration withholds federal funds from states that do not change their House distr... = Benefit to American democracy*

	Little benefit to American democracy (2)	Moderate benefit to American democracy (3)	Serious benefit to American democracy (4)	Extraordinary benefit to American democracy (5)
<p><i>Display this choice:</i>  <i>If Supreme Court overturns Humphrey's Executor precedent, ruling that presidents can fire members of... = Benefit to American democracy</i></p> <p>Supreme Court overturns Humphrey's Executor precedent, ruling that presidents can fire members of independent agencies (FTC, SEC, FCC, NLRB, etc.) at</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

will. (26)

*Display this choice:*

*If Supreme Court rules in Louisiana v. Callais that states cannot consider race when drawing congress... = Benefit to American democracy*

Supreme Court rules in Louisiana v. Callais that states cannot consider race when drawing congressional districts even to comply with the Voting Rights Act. (128)



*Display this choice:*

*If Supreme Court rules that states cannot count mail-in ballots received after Election Day, invalid... = Benefit to American democracy*

Supreme Court rules that states cannot count mail-in ballots received after Election Day, invalidating such laws in 36+ states. (129)



*Display this choice:*



*If Supreme Court rules that presidents cannot use emergency powers to impose tariffs without explicit... = Benefit to American democracy*

Supreme Court rules that presidents cannot use emergency powers to impose tariffs without explicit congressional authorization.  
(130)

*Display this choice:  
If The Trump administration withholds federal funds from states that do not change their House distr... = Benefit to American democracy*

The Trump administration withholds federal funds from states that do not change their House district maps to advantage Republicans.  
(131)



*Display this question:*

*If Supreme Court overturns Humphrey's Executor precedent, ruling that presidents can fire members of... = Threat to American democracy*

*Or Supreme Court rules in Louisiana v. Callais that states cannot consider race when drawing congres... = Threat to American democracy*

*Or Supreme Court rules that states cannot count mail-in ballots received after Election Day, invalid... = Threat to American democracy*

*Or Supreme Court rules that presidents cannot use emergency powers to impose tariffs without explici... = Threat to American democracy*

*Or The Trump administration withholds federal funds from states that do not change their House distr... = Threat to American democracy*

f\_threats You indicated that the following are threats to American democracy. We would now like you to rate the degree to which they are a threat to democracy.

*Display this choice:*  
*If Supreme Court overturns Humphrey's Executor precedent, ruling that presidents can fire members of... = Threat to American democracy*

*Display this choice:*  
*If Supreme Court rules in Louisiana v. Callais that states cannot consider race when drawing congress... = Threat to American democracy*

*Display this choice:*  
*If Supreme Court rules that states cannot count mail-in ballots received after Election Day, invalid... = Threat to American democracy*

*Display this choice:*  
*If Supreme Court rules that presidents cannot use emergency powers to impose tariffs without explici... = Threat to American democracy*

*Display this choice:*  
*If The Trump administration withholds federal funds from states that do not change their House distr... = Threat to American democracy*

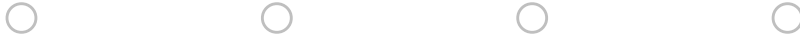
	Little threat to American democracy (2)	Moderate threat to American democracy (3)	Serious threat to American democracy (4)	Extraordinary threat to American democracy (5)
<p><i>Display this choice:</i>  <i>If Supreme Court overturns Humphrey's Executor precedent, ruling that presidents can fire members of... = Threat to American democracy</i></p> <p>Supreme Court overturns Humphrey's Executor precedent, ruling that presidents can fire members of independent agencies (FTC, SEC, FCC, NLRB, etc.) at</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

will. (26)

*Display this choice:*

*If Supreme Court rules in Louisiana v. Callais that states cannot consider race when drawing congress... = Threat to American democracy*

Supreme Court rules in Louisiana v. Callais that states cannot consider race when drawing congressional districts even to comply with the Voting Rights Act. (128)



*Display this choice:*

*If Supreme Court rules that states cannot count mail-in ballots received after Election Day, invalid... = Threat to American democracy*

Supreme Court rules that states cannot count mail-in ballots received after Election Day, invalidating such laws in 36+ states. (129)



*Display this choice:*

*If Supreme*



*Court rules that presidents cannot use emergency powers to impose tariffs without explicit... = Threat to American democracy*

Supreme Court rules that presidents cannot use emergency powers to impose tariffs without explicit congressional authorization.  
(130)

*Display this choice:  
If The Trump administration withholds federal funds from states that do not change their House distr... = Threat to American democracy*

The Trump administration withholds federal funds from states that do not change their House district maps to advantage Republicans.  
(131)



End of Block: Section 7b: Future threats to democracy

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Start of Block: future threats as cruxes intro

Q1049 We would now like to know how you would rate the political system of the United States if different events took place in the future.

End of Block: future threats as cruxes intro

---

Start of Block: Section 8.1: future threats as cruxes

Q1036 On a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 is least democratic and 100 is most democratic, how would you rate the political system of the United States under the following scenario? You rated the US now as  $\{r_{usa\_now}/ChoiceNumericEntryValue/1\}$ .

-----

crux\_humphry Supreme Court overturns Humphrey's Executor precedent, ruling that presidents can fire members of independent agencies (FTC, SEC, FCC, NLRB, etc.) at will.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100



End of Block: Section 8.1: future threats as cruxes

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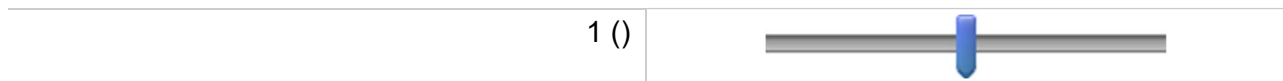
Start of Block: Section 8.2: future threats as cruxes

Q1360 On a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 is least democratic and 100 is most democratic, how would you rate the political system of the United States under the following scenario? You rated the US now as  $\{r_{usa\_now}/ChoiceNumericEntryValue/1\}$ .

-----

crux\_vra Supreme Court rules in Louisiana v. Callais that states cannot consider race when drawing congressional districts even to comply with the Voting Rights Act.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100



End of Block: Section 8.2: future threats as cruxes

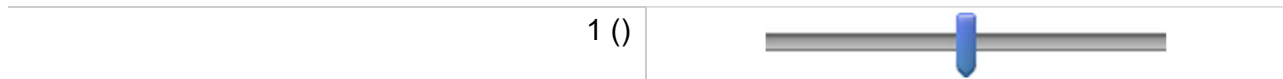
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Start of Block: Section 8.3: future threats as cruxes

Q1371 On a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 is least democratic and 100 is most democratic, how would you rate the political system of the United States under the following scenario? You rated the US now as  $\{\text{rusa\_now/ChoiceNumericEntryValue/1}\}$ .

crux\_mail\_in Supreme Court rules that states cannot count mail-in ballots received after Election Day, invalidating such laws in 36+ states.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100



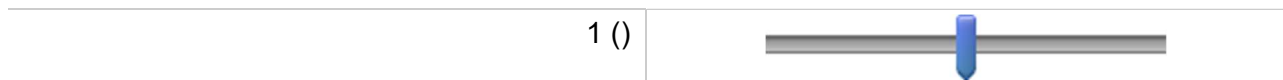
End of Block: Section 8.3: future threats as cruxes

Start of Block: Section 8.4: future threats as cruxes

Q1381 On a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 is least democratic and 100 is most democratic, how would you rate the political system of the United States under the following scenario? You rated the US now as  $\{\text{rusa\_now/ChoiceNumericEntryValue/1}\}$ .

crux\_tariffs Supreme Court rules that presidents cannot use emergency powers to impose tariffs without explicit congressional authorization.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100



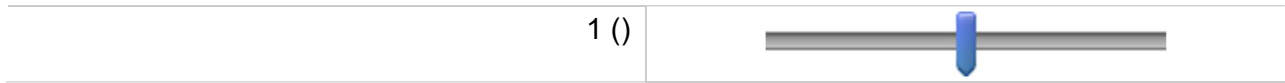
End of Block: Section 8.4: future threats as cruxes

Start of Block: Section 8.5: future threats as cruxes

Q1390 On a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 is least democratic and 100 is most democratic, how would you rate the political system of the United States under the following scenario? You rated the US now as  $\{\text{rusa\_now/ChoiceNumericEntryValue/1}\}$ .

crux\_fed\_fund The Trump administration withholds federal funds from states that do not change their House district maps to advantage Republicans.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100



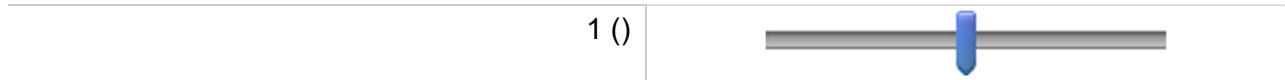
End of Block: Section 8.5: future threats as cruxes

Start of Block: Section 8.6: future threats as cruxes

Q1398 On a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 is least democratic and 100 is most democratic, how would you rate the political system of the United States under the following scenario? You rated the US now as  $\{rusa\_now/ChoiceNumericEntryValue/1\}$ .

crux\_ins\_act The U.S. president formally invokes the Insurrection Act.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100



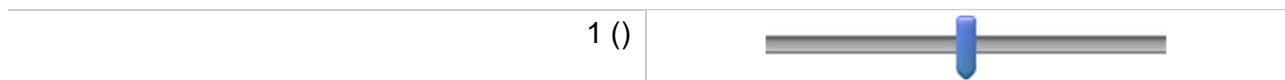
End of Block: Section 8.6: future threats as cruxes

Start of Block: Section 8.7: future threats as cruxes

Q1405 On a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 is least democratic and 100 is most democratic, how would you rate the political system of the United States under the following scenario? You rated the US now as  $\{rusa\_now/ChoiceNumericEntryValue/1\}$ .

crux\_state\_concede Two or more losing major-party candidates for governor or U.S. Senator in competitive races refuse to concede defeat in the 2026 general elections.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100



End of Block: Section 8.7: future threats as cruxes

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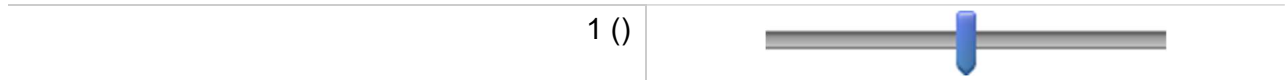
Start of Block: Section 8.8: future threats as cruxes

Q1411 On a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 is least democratic and 100 is most democratic, how would you rate the political system of the United States under the following scenario? You rated the US now as  $\{rusa\_now/ChoiceNumericEntryValue/1\}$ .

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crux\_birthright A federal, state, or local government denies or refuses to recognize the citizenship status of one or more U.S.-born children of non-citizen parents.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100



End of Block: Section 8.8: future threats as cruxes

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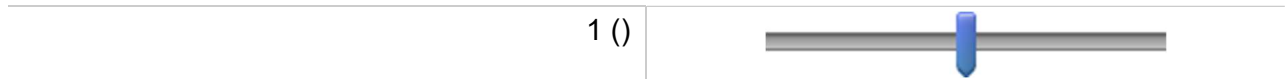
Start of Block: Section 8.9: future threats as cruxes

Q1416 On a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 is least democratic and 100 is most democratic, how would you rate the political system of the United States under the following scenario? You rated the US now as  $\{rusa\_now/ChoiceNumericEntryValue/1\}$ .

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crux\_abroad U.S. authorities transfer a current or former U.S. citizen to a prison abroad.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100



End of Block: Section 8.9: future threats as cruxes

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Start of Block: Section 8.10: future threats as cruxes

Q1420 On a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 is least democratic and 100 is most democratic, how would you rate the political system of the United States under the following scenario? You rated the US now as  $\{rusa\_now/ChoiceNumericEntryValue/1\}$ .

---

crux\_courtorder The U.S. President or another executive branch official directs federal law enforcement to not enforce a federal court order.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

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**End of Block: Section 8.10: future threats as cruxes**

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**Start of Block: Section 11: Occupation**

Q9.1 Timing

First Click (1)

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occupation Which of the following best describes your occupation?

- Graduate student (1)
- Post-doctoral fellow (2)
- Adjunct faculty (3)
- Full-time faculty (4)
- Emeritus faculty (5)
- Other (6)

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**End of Block: Section 11: Occupation**

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**Start of Block: Section 12: Field of study**

field intro Timing  
First Click (1)  
Last Click (2)  
Page Submit (3)  
Click Count (4)

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field What is your primary field of study?

- American politics (1)
  - Comparative politics (2)
  - International relations (3)
  - Political theory (4)
  - Another field of political science (5)
  - Something other than political science (6)
- 

field\_text What is your specific area of study?

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**End of Block: Section 12: Field of study**

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**Start of Block: Section 13: Academic institution**

Q1009 Timing  
First Click (1)  
Last Click (2)  
Page Submit (3)  
Click Count (4)

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institution What type of academic institution do you work at?

- Public (1)
- Private nonprofit (2)
- Private for-profit (3)
- None of the above (4)

**End of Block: Section 13: Academic institution**

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**Start of Block: Section 14: Location**

Q1010 Timing  
First Click (1)  
Last Click (2)  
Page Submit (3)  
Click Count (4)

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location In which state is the academic institution where you work located?

▼ Alabama (1) ... My institution is not in the United States (52)

**End of Block: Section 14: Location**

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**Start of Block: forecast suggestions**

forecast\_suggestions We welcome suggestions for forecasting questions you would recommend for future surveys. The current set is here. Please propose any you would suggest below.

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End of Block: forecast suggestions

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Start of Block: Section 15: Comments

Q11.1 Timing  
First Click (1)  
Last Click (2)  
Page Submit (3)  
Click Count (4)

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comments Do you have any comments about this survey?

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Q710 Thank you for answering these questions. This research is not intended to support or oppose any political candidate or office. The research has no affiliation with any political candidate or campaign and has received no financial support from any political candidate or campaign.

End of Block: Section 15: Comments

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